

## Build People up 1st, Break Down Problems 2nd

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. **Slide2 Family Night:** This coming Wed. It will begin at **6:30pm** in the courtyard. We are serving **pizza** from Jerseys, and **dessert** afterwards. **Come enjoy a *family style message*** and a fun night to celebrate that summer is here!
- B. **Slide3 Fostering a Hope Community:** moved to the 4th Wed night of this month *because of family night*. Wed June 23 at 7pm.
- C. **Slide4 Community Blood Drive:** We are partnering w/*Life Stream Blood Bank*. It will be held on Sun June 27. **Sign up for your spot online.**
- D. **Slide5 Rummage Sale for Bulgaria:** Support is for the **Laster Family**. If you have *lightly used items* you would like to donate, please **drop off** on Sun June 20th at the **lower campus** from 8-noon.
- E. **Slide6 Prayer:** *Truth. Your Word is **truth**, You are the Way the **Truth** & the **Life**.*

### II. Slide7a Intro: Build People up 1st, Break Down Problems 2nd

- A. This letter began just as in 2nd John (*the elder ...*), **but** immediately reveals its more personal nature (**not to a church but to a man**).
- B. Third John supplements statements on Christian hospitality in 2 John. [3 main players]
  1. **Slide7b Applauding Gaius** for living out the teachings of the apostles (he had welcomed traveling Christian missionaries into his home). *Pos the pastor?*
  2. **Condemning Diotrefes** a selfish/prideful church leader who not only refused to help these missionaries **but also** had slandered and opposed those who disagreed with him.
  3. **Commending Demetrius** w/a good testimony.
- C. Believers should hold onto *truth* & practice the dual virtues of *love* & *discernment*.
- D. John gives us an example here in *build people up 1st, break down problems 2nd*.

1. John gives us some **leadership training 101** on how to care enough about someone's spiritual success **by casting light on specific areas in which they are excelling**.
2. This works in church leadership situations, **but also in every situation**. **No limits!** *In your small Community Group, in your support group, at home, at work, etc.*

### III. Slide 8a **BUILD PEOPLE UP 1st (1-8)** *break down problems 2nd*

#### A. **GAIUS**

B. **Gaius** was a very popular name in the Roman Empire.

1. In the NT we also meet *Gaius of Eph*, *Gaius of Derby*, & *Gaius of Corinth*.

C. **Truth** - when Jesus was talking with pilot he said, *everyone on the side of truth listens to me*. Jn.18:37 NIV

1. When it comes to **Truth** today, some believe **it doesn't matter what direction you take in life, as long as you're sincere in it**.
  - a) **But if a blind person** is standing at the edge of a cliff and asks you for **directions**, and you know if he goes straight *he will get hurt*. What if you tell him, **it doesn't matter which way you go, as long as you're sincere**. **Would that be loving? Or cruel?**
  - b) Truth is important. People are stepping into eternity. *Don't you want to give them the right directions?*

D. (2) **John's Prayer**: that Gaius' **physical body** would be as healthy as **his soul**.

1. Wow, God cares not only about you **spiritually**, **but also** about your physical **health**. *Wait, do you believe that?*

E. **John** encourages **Gaius** with **prayer** (2), with a word of **encouragement** (2b *his soul is doing well*). He commends his **walk** (3,4), and encourages his Christian **hospitality** (5-8).

F. A few fellow Christians visited Gaius' church and brought back good report to John.

1. **Two things:** Gaius's *continuing faithfulness to the truth in his lifestyle* (3b) and *his love* (6a).
- G. **Slide8b** (4) **Wow**, for John, *formally known as the son of thunder*, turns **gentle elder**, *there could be no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*
1. **I want to be like John. Why do some christians still boast in being a son or daughter of Thunder?** I want to grow up and mature.
    - a) **Slide8c** Truth & love are **key elements** in *spiritual maturity*.
  2. **Every Christian parent can echo verse 4 and even make it a prayer.** Wiersbe
- H. **Slide8d** (5) **Stranger** - The Greek word for **hospitality** is *philoxenia* (philos=love; xenos=stranger) "*love of strangers.*" Which, even though the word doesn't appear in our passage it is what John fleshes out about Gaius here. [philoox-enia]
- I. **Slide9** 3 Reasons when proper **hospitality** should be given. [not limited to this]
1. (7a) **When they are on a mission for Christ. For the have gone out for the sake of the name.**
  2. (7b,8a) **When they need help.** The 2nd reason is more *practical*.
    - a) They didn't receive help from the non-Christian community. *So we ought to support them.* [ought = to be obliged]
  3. (8b) **So we can work together for the truth.** With thus cooperate in the effort of **spreading the truth** and **doing the truth**.
- J. **Please, know your Missionaries** (it is very unique to have this much time with **Mike/Lori & David & Becky**). We have an opportunity to help **the Laster's** financially in Bulgaria (w/rummage sale).
- K. **Slide10a** **In the Great Commission, some must go but all must sow.**
1. All didn't "**go**" in Acts 13, they separated Paul & Barnabas for the work God had called them to, **not** all the elders, **not** the pastor, **not** the whole church of Antioch.
  2. And when Paul/Barnabas returned **they didn't rebuke them for not going.**

3. Slide10b Not all are called to be sent, but all are called *to be apart of the discipling of the nations!*

L. What's the Trouble? [take a quick self-diagnosis]

1. Is it **heart trouble**? Are you preoccupied w/your own interests? or have squeezed out of your life any room for *compassion* for others?
2. Is it **eye trouble**? Do you not see the hurting/unbelieving in the world?
3. Is it **head trouble**? Are you waiting till everything makes perfect sense in your limited mind?
4. Is it **knee trouble**? Are you playing at prayer?
5. Is it **ear trouble**? Is the Lord calling, but you've learned to tune Him out?

M. Here's what's up, John says, *when you assist and encourage God's workers, you become a fellow worker with them in spreading the truth.*

#### IV. Slide11a **BREAK DOWN PROBLEMS 2nd (9-10)** *build people up 1st, break down prob 2nd*

##### A. DIOTREPES WARNING

B. Slide11b “*A man wrapped up in himself is a very small package.*”

C. Diotrepes put himself 1st/selfish. He had a problem with authority/pride. He talks wicked nonsense/some people can say a lot w/o saying anything. He refuses to welcome others/inhospitable. And on top of that, he stops others from welcoming them/stumbling block, and then on top of that, puts them out of the church/opposite of fellowship.

D. This section demonstrates that *pride divides*.

#### V. Slide12 **BACK TO BUILDING UP (11-15)**

##### A. DEMETRIUS COMMENDATION

B. Not all church members are like Diotrepes. There are people like Demetrius who **love the truth** and **live it**. *They are the one's who make the local church healthy.*

C. (13) I'd rather *speak it* than *write it*.

D. (15) **Peace** be to you (w/your *church* problems, *relationship* problems, *work* problems, *neighbor* problems, *health* problems) **but** you'll do well with *truth and love*.

E. Keywords: Truth, Gaius, Diotrephes, Demetrius, lifestyle, love, hospitality, missionaries, condemning, commending.