



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Winter Quarter - Lesson 5 - Week of February 11, 2024

Lesson: IMITATING WHAT IS GOOD

Bible Verses: III John 1:1-14; II Corinthians 3:18; Titus 2:7-8; I Timothy 4:12; I Corinthians 4:16-17

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Do you have any phobias?
2. What is one thing you would like to know more about?

DISCUSSION

"Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God (III John 1:11 NKJV)."

Observation: Read III John 1-14 from the New International Version or the New King James Version.

In John's third letter, he points out two specific individuals in the church for their behavior – Gaius and Diotrephes. On the one hand, he praises the work of Gaius, a church elder, who repeatedly demonstrated hospitality and generosity to traveling Christian workers. But on the other hand, he condemned the actions of Diotrephes, a controlling troublemaker, who had not only stopped other believers from showing hospitality but also kicked them out of the church. John wanted Gaius to keep imitating what was good and to continue showing hospitality by receiving his coworker Demetrius, who would be bearing his letter.

1. If a group of Christians reported on your life, as some did on Gaius's life, what do you think they would say?
2. What does John say was his greatest joy?
3. Have you known a Diotrephes? Do you agree with John's approach to dealing with him?
4. What is the best way to handle someone like a Diotrephes in your life?
5. How does John say he is going to approach Diotrephes when he comes to visit?
6. What does John mean when he calls the believers to not imitate what is evil but what is good (verse 11)? How does this apply to your life?

We can reduce the human job description down to one phrase, and this is it: reflect God's glory in our lives. As Paul wrote: *"And we, with our unveiled faces reflecting like mirrors the brightness of the Lord, all grow brighter and brighter as we are turned into the image that we reflect; this is the work of the Lord (II Corinthians 3:18).*

1. How does Paul point out the connection between beholding God's glory and reflecting it?
2. Why is it tempting to live for ourselves instead of reflecting God's glory?
3. Why do you think so many people insist on doing things their way rather than God's way, even when they know God's way is ultimately better for them?

We naturally imitate others. Those we imitate are not perfect; they are still being transformed. Therefore, we should always keep our eyes on imitating good (the word of God and good behavior). In truth, we should imitate others only as they imitate Christ (I Corinthians 11:1).

- Imitate those who do good works and who teach with integrity (Titus 2:7-8).
- Imitate those who lead pure lives (I Timothy 4:12).
- Imitate those who follow what we are taught in scripture (I Corinthians 4:16-17).
- Imitate those who care for the welfare of others (Phil. 2:19-21).

Prayer Focus: God, help me to always imitate you in my life.

Devotion: Father, forgive our tendency to pursue a self-absorbed agenda. Remind us that your desire is for your people to show good.