**HOW TO BE A BLESSING TO YOUR PREACHER**

**III John 1:1-14**

[**1**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-1/) **The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.** [**2**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-2/) **Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.** [**3**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-3/) **For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.**

[**4**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-4/) **I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.** [**5**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-5/) **Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;** [**6**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-6/) **Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:** [**7**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-7/) **Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.** [**8**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-8/) **We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.**

[**9**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-9/) **I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.**

[**10**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-10/) **Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth *them* out of the church.** [**11**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-11/) **Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.**

[**12**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-12/) **Demetrius hath good report of all *men*, and of the truth itself: yea, and we *also* bear record; and ye know that our record is true.** [**13**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-13/) **I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee:** [**14**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-14/) **But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace *be* to thee. *Our* friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.**

**INTRO:**

**Background: John wrote a letter to Diotrephes, and recommended some preachers to him to have and to receive. Diotrephes rejected John’s recommendations and his preachers so John writes this letter to Gaius.**

**1. Notice the Rejoicing**

**III John 1:3** [**3**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-3/) **For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.**

 **a. He rejoices over the Testimonies.**

 **b. He rejoices over the Truth.**

**2. Notice the Report**

**III John 1:5, 6 [5](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-5/%22%20%5Co%20%223%20John%201%3A5%20KJV%20verse%20detail) Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;** [**6**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-6/) **Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church:**

 **a. The church people showed love toward the Saved.**

 **b. The church people showed love toward the Strangers.**

**3. Notice the Receiving**

**III John 1:8** [**8**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-8/) **We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.**

**\*\*John Exhorts and Encourages them to receive them.**

**4. Notice the Rejection**

**III John 1:9** [**9**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-9/) **I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. (Diotrephes loved to be superior over the church.)**

 **a. Diotrephes rejected John’s Persuasion**

 **b. Diotrephes rejected John’s People**

**\*\*Note: When a preacher is under the influence of the Holy Ghost and you reject his persuasions and his people, it does not help the preacher at all.**

**5. Notice the Rebuke**

**III John 1:10-11 [10](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-10/%22%20%5Co%20%223%20John%201%3A10%20KJV%20verse%20detail) Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth *them* out of the church.** [**11**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-11/) **Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.**

 **a. John rebukes Diotrephes’ Malicious Words**

 **b. John rebukes Diotrephes’ Mean Ways**

**6. Notice the Record**

**III John 1:12** [**12**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-12/) **Demetrius hath good report of all *men*, and of the truth itself: yea, and we *also* bear record; and ye know that our record is true.**

**\*\*John said, “Look at the record!” Why?**

 **a. Because John’s clergyman was absolutely straight!**

 **b. Because John’s character was accurately solid!**

**III John 1:3, 4 is what I’m interested in.** [**3**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-3/) **For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.** [**4**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/3-John-1-4/) **I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.**

**\*\*I appreciate everything the church does for me and my family. However, a Pastor’s flock is like his children, and the greatest joy to a preacher is hearing his flock has acquired a Testimony that allows them to worship right and has accepted a Truth that allows them to walk right!**

**\*\*The Word of God that I preach is the truth, and it sure does help this preacher when I preach and you Listen to it , you Learn from it, and you Live by it.**

**\*\*So here are some suggestions on How You Can Be A Blessing To Your Preacher!**

**I. BE FAITHFUL AND DON’T STRAY**

**Psalms 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.**

**\*\*There’s nothing that thrills this pastor more and give me great joy than when people respond and does their best not to stray from the word that has been preached to them.**

 **A. Take what has been Preached and Don’t Stray from Christ.**

 **1. Don’t Stray from Supplication**

 **2. Don’t Stray from Scripture**

 **3. Don’t Stray from Salvation**

 **B. Take what has been Presented and Don’t Stray from Church.**

 **1. Don’t Stray from Sunday School**

 **2. Don’t Stray from Sunday Services**

 **C. Take what has been Proclaimed and Don’t Stray from Caring**

 **1. Don’t Stray from Caring about the Spirit**

**\*\*Don’t ever stray away from caring about the Spirit speaking . . .**

 **a. Through the Singing**

 **b. Through the Sermon**

 **2. Don’t Stray from Caring about the Saints**

 **a. Many times I’ve said to Show you Love to one another.**

 **b. Many times I’ve said to Speak your Love to one another.**

 **3. Don’t Stray from Caring about the Sinner**

 **a. Care about their Soul and do not Reject them.**

 **b. Care about their Situation and do not Refuse them.**

**\*\*Diotrephes didn’t appreciate Bro. John nor his message.**

**\*\*If you want to be a blessing to your preacher, accept the gospel I preach, and don’t stray from it.**

**II. BE FEARFUL AND DON’T STRUT**

**James 4:6 - . . . Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**

**\*\*Directly in the middle of the word “sin” and “pride” is the letter *I*. Diotrephes was full of pride!**

**\*\*If you appreciate your pastor, then flee from pride because it is destructive to the body of Christ and the church.**

 **A. Pride will cause you to Lose Your Fellowship**

**Proverbs 16:19 [Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Proverbs-16-19/%22%20%5Co%20%22CLICK%20FOR%20MORE%20TRANSLATIONS%20of%20Proverbs%2016%3A19-%20Better%20%5Bit%20is%20to%20be%5D%20of%20an%20humble%20spirit%20with%20the%20lowly%2C%20than%20to%20divide%20the%20spoil%20with%20the%20proud.)**

 **1. You will lose fellowship with Christ.**

**Proverbs 6:16-19** [**16**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Proverbs-6-16/) **These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him:**[**17**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Proverbs-6-17/) **A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,**[**18**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Proverbs-6-18/) **An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,**[**19**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Proverbs-6-19/) **A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.**

 **2. You will lose fellowship with Christians**

**\*\*It starts with a proud look and ends with sowing discord!**

 **B. Pride will cause you to Lose Your Footing**

**Proverbs 16:18 Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.**

**\*\*You will lose your footing in the faith and fall because of being Self-Admiring, Self-Conceited, Self-Exalting, Self-Important, Sour, Swollen, Snappy, and Scathing**

**\*\*Scathing means you Criticize, Complain, and Cut people with words.**

**\*\*If you want to be a blessing to your preacher, then don’t start strutting around with stinking pride in your life.**

**III. BE FAVORED AND DON’T STOOP**

**Romans 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.**

 **A. Don’t Stoop to Sin**

 **1. Sins of Commission: The things that we all agree are wrong, know are wrong, and we still do them anyway.**

 **2. Sins of Omission: The things that you know that you should do, yet you do them not.**

 **3. Sins of Permission: The things that society approves of, and family approves of, and even some churches approves of, but in your heart, you know God does not approve of it.**

**\*\*Please don’t tell the preacher that you appreciate him and the message God gave him and then go out and sin against everything that preacher just preached!**

 **B. Don’t Stoop to Slackness**

 **1. In Your Christian Life.**

**\*\*Instead spend time in Studying, in Supplication, in Surrendering, and in Self-discipline in my lifestyle.**

 **2. In Your Community Life.**

**\*\*Instead satisfy the Lord in your Deeds, in your Dialect, in your Discipline, and in your Dress.**

 **3. In Your Church Life.**

**\*\*Instead, commit to not being slack in your Attendance, in your Attitude, in your Actions, in you Aid, or in your Attention.**

**\*\*When you are slack in your church life, it does not say. “I love the Lord, and I appreciate my pastor.”**

 **4. In Your Children’s Life.**

**\*\*Instead, don’t be slack concerning your children’s Mates, Music, Media, Manners, and Minds.**

 **C. Don’t Stoop to Slander**

**\*\*No Backbiting, no Backstabbing, no Belittlement, and no Buzzing!**

**\*\*If you want to be a blessing to your preacher, then don’t start stooping to Sin, Slackness, and Slander.**

**IV. BE FERVENT, AND DON’T STOP**

**\*\*Fervent – energeo (ener gay o) It means to put forth power and work effectively toward your goal.**

 **A. Be Fervent - Don’t Stop Being Dedicated**

 **1. Be a Dedicated Christian Person**

 **2. Be a Dedicated Church Person**

 **B. Be Fervent - Don’t Stop Being Devoted**

 **1. To the Lord**

 **a. Stay in the Lord’s Favor**

 **b. Stay in the Lord’s Fellowship**

 **2. To the Love**

 **a. Love the Messiah**

 **b. Love the Members**

 **\*\* Be forgiving to those seeking forgiveness.**

 **\*\* Be friends to those seeking friendship.**

 **C. Be Fervent - Don’t Stop Being Disciplined**

 **1. Be Disciplined in your Devotions**

 **2. Be Disciplined in your Desires**

 **3. Be Disciplined in your Duties**

**\*\*If you want to be a blessing to your preacher then don’t stop being dedicated, devoted, and disciplined to the gospel I preach.**

**CLOSE**

**Illustration: I will never forget there was a family in a church where I used to pastor, and they were faithful members. However, they were leading their family down the wrong path and it was plain as day. The Lord laid it on my heart to preach a message that directly dealt with their misguidance and misdeeds. I prayed and I agonized with the Lord. I would study and pray some more; I’d try to come up with another message and prayed some more. God would not let me out of it. I was so afraid of hurting that family and causing them to get out of church.**

 **After staying up until 3:00 or so in the morning, the time came to preach that message. I did my best to point out the sin and still be kind and gentle and loving. I preached my heart out with tears in my eyes and the Holy Ghost in my heart.**

 **It came time for the invitation. All of a sudden this Dad and Mother with tears in their eyes and a burden on their heart came and prayed. After the service, this couple came to me and said, “Bro. Scott, we never realized how wrong we were in this matter. We appreciate the message, and we appreciate you following the Lord and preaching to us.”**

 **I have received gifts, cards, money, complaints, criticism, and compliments throughout my ministry. I thank God for all of them. However, I’ve never felt more appreciated than when people like that heed to the message, change their ways and say, “Thank you for preaching that message to me Bro. Scott.”**

**\*\*Come to the altar because of the Lord dealing with you, but if you really appreciate the message and the messenger, then accept the message and respond to the Lord.**