

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

3 JOHN SERIES

These questions are for the **September 24, 2017** sermon, "Polar Opposites." Please read the sermon passage (3 John 9-15) together out loud.

SERMON OUTLINE

WHEN PURSUING CONFLICT RESOLUTION, SEEK TO . . .

1. Summarize the conflict accurately (9-10)
 - a. In dealing with conflict, we are always wrestling with, "Who comes first?"
 - i. Divided authorities produce divided loyalties.
 - ii. Divided loyalties produce relational tensions.
 - b. The rebel wants to put himself first, the follower of Jesus wants to put Jesus first.
 - i. Put the needs of the other person first . . .
 - ii. Under the authority of the clear teaching of Scripture.
 - iii. "The rebel takes the place of honor, while the humble gives the place of honor."
2. Contrast the issues clearly (11-12) [start with love!]
 - a. Distinguish between servant leadership (authority) and dictatorial leadership (authoritarianism); shepherding (showing the way) and goading (do what I say).
 - b. Boil the conflict down to one issue. In this case, "submission to biblical authority."
3. Engage the stakeholders relationally (13-15)
 - a. Writing and texting have their place, but conflict resolution requires face-to-face.
 - b. Note the blessing for "all" the "friends" (v. 15) when there is peace.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Think about a conflict that is going on in your life right now. Describe that conflict. In your grievance, your "side" of the conflict, is God and his Word your authority?
2. Based on #1, above: The rebel takes the place of honor, while the humble gives the place of honor. How does this truth factor into your current conflict? How can you "give the place of honor" without simply "being walked on." Note that John does NOT allow for the rebel (the one "taking the place of honor") to go unchecked. He firmly confronts this rebel.
3. Based on #2, above: In parenting, it is easy to focus on verbal instructions and "goading" our children. Would you say that parent more with your words (from 'behind'), or with your example (out in front)? How might improving your example also improve your children's willingness to listen to you?
4. Based on #2, above: It is sometimes difficult to boil a conflict down to one simple issue. It requires insight and wisdom. How can we help you boil your conflict down to a single issue, and then pursue peace?
5. Based on #3, above: Is there any place in your life where you have tried to resolve a conflict through writing, Facebook or via texting? How did that go for you? Are you willing to repent of those impersonal means and commit yourself to face-to-face conflict resolution?