



## “Choose Your Examples Well”

*“Dear friend, don’t let this bad example influence you. Follow only what is good.” 3 John 1:11*

### A. This letter revolves around three personalities...

*“Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example.” 1 Peter 5:3*

1. Gaius

*“I am writing to Gaius, my dear friend...” Vs 1b*

2. Diotrephes

*“I wrote to the church about this, but Diotrephes...” Vs 9a*

3. Demetrius

*“Everyone speaks highly of Demetrius...” Vs 12a*

4. Choose your examples well...starting with Jesus!

*“I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.” John 13:15*

*“Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example.” Philipians 3:17*

*“And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching.” Titus 2:7*

*“Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith.” Hebrews 13:7*

### B. John speaks strongly to guide us in finding examples...

*“Remember that those who do good prove that they are God’s children, and those who do evil prove that they do not know God.” Vs 11b*

1. Gaius

*“This letter is from John, the elder. I am writing to Gaius, my dear friend, whom I love in the truth.” Vs 1*

a. Strong in Spirit.

*“Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit.” Vs 2*

b. Consistent in his actions.

*“Some of the traveling teachers recently returned and made me very happy by telling me about your faithfulness and that you are living according to the truth.” Vs 3*

c. Generous in his giving.

*“Dear friend, you are being faithful to God when you care for the traveling teachers who pass through, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church here of your loving friendship. Please continue providing for such teachers in a manner that pleases God.” Vs 5-6*

2. Diotrephes

a. Slanders others and refuses the authority of John.

*“I wrote to the church about this, but Diotrephes...refuses to have anything to do with us.” Vs 9*

b. Refuses to welcome the traveling ministers.

*“Not only does he refuse to welcome the traveling teachers, he also tells others not to help them.” Vs 10b*

c. Puts people out of the church.

*“Not only does he refuse to welcome the traveling teachers, he also tells others not to help them. And when they do help, he puts them out of the church.” Vs 10b,c*

d. Puts himself first.

*“...Diotrephes, who loves to be the leader...”*

*“...Diotrephes, who loves to be first...” Vs 9b NIV*

3. Demetrius

a. His reputation among all is excellent.

*“Everyone speaks highly of Demetrius...” Vs 12a*

b. His walk matches his talk.

*“Everyone speaks highly of Demetrius, as does the truth itself.” Vs 12a*

c. His reputation and character are confirmed by his overseeing leaders.

*“We ourselves can say the same for him, and you know we speak the truth.” Vs 12b*

### C. So, how do we make wise choices for examples or influencers?

*“Associate yourself with people of good quality, for it is better to be alone than in bad company.” Booker T. Washington*

*“You become like the 5 people you spend the most time with. Choose carefully.”*

*“You don’t need a certain number of friends, just a number of friends you can be certain of.”*

*“Surround yourself with only people who are going to lift you higher.”*

1. Friends will influence your behavior.

*“The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray.” Proverbs 12:26*

2. Friends will give good counsel.

*“Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is safety in having many advisers.” Proverbs 11:14*

3. Friends will be honest with you.

*“Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.” Proverbs 27:6*

4. Friends will affect your character.

*“Don’t be fooled by those who say such things, for ‘bad company corrupts good character.’” 1 Corinthians 15:33*

5. Jesus is our best friend and role model!

*“You are My friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are My friends, since I have told you everything the Father told Me. You didn’t choose Me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using My name.” John 15:14-16*

## **D. Looking internally...**

*“Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.” 2 Corinthians 13:5*

*“Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don’t drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it. I hope the test won’t show that we have failed. But if it comes to that, we’d rather the test showed our failure than yours. We’re rooting for the truth to win out in you. We couldn’t possibly do otherwise.” 2 Corinthians 13:5-8 The Message*

1. Are you growing in your walk with Jesus by the examples and influencers in your life?
2. After you have been with a friend or primary influencer, do you feel closer to Jesus or distanced from Him?
3. Are you making better choices because of the examples or influencers in your life?
4. Who or what has influenced you most to draw closer to Jesus?
5. Who is watching your example? Are they seeing what they need to see in your life?

*“And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.”  
1 Corinthians 11:1*

*To begin a relationship with Jesus...*

*Text: I Choose Jesus to 88202*