

## EVERY MEMBER COUNTS

The little fourteen verse book of 3<sup>rd</sup> John reminds us that every Christian will be a blot or a blessing, but no Christian can be just a blank. Every one of us has influence on others for the cause of Christ - either good or bad. In 3<sup>rd</sup> John, three men have the attention of the apostle John. He commends the good being done by two men by the names of Gaius and Demetrius (3<sup>rd</sup> John 1 & 12). Gaius is noted for lending support and aid to preachers and teachers of the truth and is commended as a "fellow worker for the truth" (verse 8). Gaius reminds us that we don't all have to do the same thing, but we do have to do what we can. If we can't preach or go to a mission field, we can pray for and financially support those who can. Demetrius is commended because he has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself. Demetrius reminds us that our impact for the cause of Christ at home or school or on the job and in the church is maximized when we walk the walk and don't just talk the talk. John declared that if you polled the church about Brother Demetrius, everybody would give a good testimony about him. Even the truth itself is personified by John as giving Demetrius the thumbs-up on his Christian walk. In great contrast, John describes a third brother names Diotrephes in 3<sup>rd</sup> John 9-11, "I wrote to the church but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words." Diotrephes reminds us that no one in the church is useless. Even the worst of us can serve as a bad example!

A cleverly written article of unknown origin reminds us that every member matters and has an effect, whether we work properly or improperly. Read carefully and thoughtfully: "Xvxn thought this kxyboard is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xcxcpt for onx kxy. I havx wishxd many timxs that it workxd pxxrxctly. It is trux that thxrx arx forty-onx kxys that do function wxll xnough, but just onxxxy not working surx makxs a diffxrxncx! Somxtimxs a congrxgation is likx this kxyboard - not all thx mxmbxrs arx working propxrlly. You may say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I'm only onx pxrson. I won't makx or brxak a projxct." But it doxs makx a diffxrxncx bxcausx any projxct, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx participation and coopxration of xach and vxvry mxmbxr. So, thx nxxt timx you think you arx only onx pxrson and that your xfforts don't mattxr, rxmxmbxr this kxyboard and say to yoursxlf, "I am a 'kxy mxmbxr' in this congrxgation, and I am nxxded vxry much!" XvXry mxmbxr mattxrs!

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