

3rd John # 7 “Understanding Evil”

3rd John 11; 1st Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 10:40-42

Like Gaius and Diotrephes, our influence is either going to be for good or evil.

Evil has its roots in arrogance.

Arrogance, the default setting of the sin nature is the gateway to evil and the enemy of the spiritual life in opposition to God's grace.

Arrogance emphasizes a creature's intellect, talents, possessions and achievements over the accomplishments of God and therefore, it craves and loves the attention of other people.

Diotrephes is arrogant because like the Ford ads used to say 'He has a better idea' and in this case, in his mind, it's a better idea than God's.

His ideas, opinions, values and subsequent actions are better ideas than that which God provides.

Diotrephes is exhibiting the ultimate in arrogance by assuming the role of the Most High God and actually judging Him and His Word by his own human standards.

Human good is a product of the sin nature which was rejected at the cross (human works are never accepted for redemption) and accumulated human good will be symbolically burned at the Judgement Seat of Christ.

Divine good is symbolized by gold, silver and costly stones for those who spent a majority of their time in experiential abiding fellowship with Jesus Christ and they're rewarded but human good is symbolized by wood, hay and straw being burned for those who spent a majority of their time in carnality.

Grace depends on Who and what God is and there's no room for human good in His plan and human good is not confessed as sin; it's taken care of by staying in fellowship because when we're in fellowship, divine good is produced.

Evil is the policy of Satan as the ruler of this world; it's his MO from the time of his fall throughout the angelic revolution to the point when he became the ruler of the world.

Evil is Satan's failure to produce a system of good in mankind and society that would bring in a false-millennium.

Evil is Satan's system by which he administers rulership of this world and because he cannot restrain sin, he sponsors human good and evil.

Where the sin of self-righteousness plus human good or sincerity combine, there's an overflow of evil in a nation.

Just as grace and truth represent the genius of God in relationship to the human race; evil represents the genius of Satan in relationship to the human race.

The soul is the battleground of every Church Age believer because this is the intensified stage of the angelic dispute, so what we think is more important than many people realize.

Recovery from sin is instantaneous through the use of 1st John 1:9 but recovery from evil takes a long time through post-salvation biblical rehabilitation.

So, the worst most detrimental thing that can happen to a believer is to come under the influence of evil because the recovery from evil is lengthy and often very painful.

Evil is an issue we must face which was not judged at the cross; so we must realize that we cannot confess evil like sin because evil was not judged at the cross.

Man must not only be free to express his free-will toward the cross and toward sin after being saved in recovery but he must also be free to express his free-will in the same way Jesus Christ did on the cross when He rejected and separated Himself from human good and evil.

This takes a lot of biblical truth for us to do this experientially but our positive attitude toward the Word develops divine viewpoint thinking which rejects evil.

Every generation has to choose between the grace policy of God, represented by the cross and the evil policy of Satan represented by the world system.

And the issue before us today is: ‘Are we influenced by the Word of God or by evil?’

Grace is the means by which biblical principles are explained and evil as Satan’s policy, is the means by which false doctrine is processed.

The end of the pursuit of evil for the believer is the sin unto death; the most suffering any believer can ever endure.

When we mature as believers, we’ll face all kinds of evil because Satan wants us to drop our guard and become negative toward biblical truth.

And so, constant intake of biblical truth is the only insulation from evil because biblical truth enters where evil would reside; in the heart where the Word of God combats evil like nothing else.