

THE "TATOR FAMILY" CREATES PROBLEMS FOR THE CHURCH

The apostle John tells us about a dictator in the church by the name of Diotrephes (III John 9 - 10). I am persuaded that there are many other kinds of "Tators" who create many problems for the church. Let us look at the "Tator Family" that is a constant source of trouble in many congregations.

THE "SPECTATOR"

The spectator is an "onlooker"; he never enters into the work and worship. He hunts him a seat where he can see best that he might know what all are doing. He is especially interested in what everyone is giving. He won't teach or take part in a class, he only observes. He won 't sing, he only listens (he doesn't think that Eph. 5:19 applies to him !). He won't help with the work of the church, he has his own work to do (you know, he must make a living!). He freely talks about what "they" are doing, he never includes himself ! He doesn't seem to know that I Corinthians 15:58 is in the New Testament.

THE "AGITATOR"

The agitator is one who excites revolt. He is displeased with the world. He doesn't know what the word contentment means (I Tim. 6: 6). He is only happy when he has things stirred up in the church. He agitates trouble by whispering unproven rumors ("Have you heard what they are saying about the preacher?"). He agitates by backbiting (Rom. 1:30), by tattling (I Tim. 5:13), by being a busybody (I Pet. 4: 15), by wanting his own way, by making problems much bigger than they really are, and by never letting problems be settled.

THE "DEVASTATOR"

The devastator lays waste, working havoc and ruin with everything he has anything to do with. He is displeased with the way everything is being done! (Gal. 5:15).

THE "LAMENTATOR"

The lamentator is always bewailing, complaining, regretting and crying. He complains about the preacher ("He doesn't visit enough", "He is not friendly enough", "He preaches too long", "He preaches too hard", "He has been preaching here too long", "We are not growing under his preaching", "He is not the right man for this place", etc.). He cries about the brethren not being friendly (they don't make over him when he comes back after "laying out" of the services). He is always regretting that "such and such" has happened. He is always afraid that the preacher is going to hurt some sinner or worldly church member's feelings. He never sees any good !

THE "DICTATOR"

The dictator loves to have the preeminence and vainglory. He wants everything done his way because nobody has enough intelligence to know how to do it as well as he does ! He is dominated by self-interest and is inconsiderate of others. He arrogantly asserts his own will, and will destroy all who get in his way. Diotrephes has many counter-parts in the church today ! (III John 9 - 10).

THE "COMMENTATOR"

The commentator gives advice to everyone ! He is a "know-it-all" ! He knows all about just about anything you might bring up. He always has the answer ! He is wise in his own eyes (Prov. 3:7).

THE "MEDITATOR"

The meditator always wants to "study" on the question at hand. He never knows what he believes on any issue. He just cannot make up his mind !

THE "IMITATOR"

The imitator wants to do things as they were done in his "home congregation", or as "Bro. so and so" said they were to be done. He has not learned that the Lord Jesus Christ is our example (1 Pet. 2: 12).

THE "HESITATOR"

The hesitator keeps waiting; he never gets anything done ! He is always "intending" to get something done. Solomon said, "*He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap*" (Eccl. 11:4).

THE "IRRITATOR"

The irritator provokes and irritates the people he is around. He does not know when to keep his mouth shut ! He makes sarcastic and "catty" remarks to people. He is always "getting back" at people. He asks embarrassing and inconsiderate questions.

I think you can see that the "Tator" family is one family no congregation needs (or wants) ! This family will soon wreck and divide the best congregation in town !

Donald Townsley

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