

have intercepted an earlier communication and suppressed it (vs. 9). Perhaps John's influence had greatly aided Gaius and harmed Diotrephes' cause. Therefore, if this speculation is correct, John was blocking the ambitious elder from becoming the unrivaled leader of the congregation.



Diotrephes reacted aggressively toward John and did everything he could to hinder John's work and influence.

1. He broke off fellowship with John - "Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will have nothing to do with us."
2. He engaged in senseless gossip about John, seeking to destroy him with unfounded accusations: "gossiping maliciously about us."
3. He refused to accept traveling missionaries who were associated with John. "He refuses to welcome the brother."
4. He excommunicated those who wanted to receive the traveling missionaries associated with the Apostle John.

