

Diotrephes did everything he possible could to cut himself and his followers off from the apostle's influence. In this way, he attempted to remove the block and achieve his goal.

It may seem strange that John, the beloved, could have such a bitter enemy among the leaders of God's people. It isn't strange to those who have been in positions of leadership in the church. There are men like Diotrephes in the ministry today and their ambition and aggressive actions have hurt many.

Those who engage in teamwork must be aware of the Diotrephes syndrome. The selfish ambition to be first is a dangerous objective. The only honorable thing about Diotrephes was that his dislike for John was quite evident. In the case of Judas, the resentment boiled below the surface for sometime before erupting.

Aggression isn't the only result of frustration. There are those who realize how inappropriate aggression is and so this tendency is suppressed. The anger and self-pity resultant from a blocked goal may become the occasion for depression.

Ahab, King of Israel, was never involved in a team ministry, but he does provide an example of depression occasioned by a blocked goal. In 1 Kings 21 the account is given of Ahab's evil ambition to obtain Naboth's vineyard.

The King first went to Naboth and requested that the Jezreelite sell him the plot of land, "Let me have your vineyard to use for a vegetable garden, since it is close to my palace, I will pay you whatever it is worth." (1 Kings 21:2) Naboth was obligated to hold on to the land because it had been in his family for some time, and