

3 JOHN

Hospitality vs. Pride in a Local Congregation

Gaius, the Dependable, v. 1-8

A Christian walking in the truth

Truth was important to Gaius

The word truth appears four times in four verses
John 17:17, John 8:32

This attitude brought great joy to the Apostle
Luke 15, John 17

Hospitality was important as well

He opened his home and helped preachers
Called "faithful work" (5), "a work of love" (6),
"a work well done" (6), "work of fellowship" (8)
In life's business, he found time for important things
Matthew 6:33, Colossians 3:17

Courage was important to Gaius

He stood up to Diotrephes' bullying
He refused to follow Diotrephes' influence

Diotrephes, the Domineering, v. 9-11

A spiritual primo Donna who tried to destroy the church

Diotrephes was full of pride

He loved to have preeminence (Grk. Love of 1st place)
This is a major danger today, 1 John 2:16, Proverbs 8:13

Diotrephes was difficult to others

He slandered the Apostle John, v. 10
He wanted his own way

He was not hospitable

He refused hospitality towards others
He barred fellowship from those who showed hospitality

Demetrius, the Deliverer, v. 12-15

An Almost Anonymous Worker Who Served Others

This man had a good report of the truth

This man was known by all to be a good man

This man was loved by John for his actions

3 John

Greeting

¹ The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth.

²Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. ³For^a I rejoiced greatly when the brothers^[a] came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. ⁴I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

Support and Opposition

⁵Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, ⁶who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. ⁷For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

⁹I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. ¹⁰So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.

¹¹Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. ¹²Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true.

Final Greetings

¹³ I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink. ¹⁴I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.

¹⁵Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, every one of them.

Footnotes:

- a. 3 John 1:3 Or *brothers and sisters*. The plural Greek word *adelphoi* (translated “brothers”) refers to siblings in a family. In New Testament usage, depending on the context, *adelphoi* may refer either to men or to both men and women who are siblings (brothers and sisters) in God’s family, the church; also verses 5, 10