

Book of 3John

Synopsis



Introduction

Book No	64
Name	3John
Written By	John
Testament	New
Category	Epistles
Date Written	Approx. 90 A.D
Place Written	Ephesus
Audience	Gaius
Purpose	To commend Gaius for his hospitality and to encourage him in his Christian life
History Covered	NA
Chapters	1
Verses	14
Key Verse	Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; (1:5)
Key People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ John ❖ Gaius ❖ Diotrophes ❖ Demetrius
Key Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ephesus

Purpose of the Book

For Gaius, hospitality was a habit, and his reputation for friendship and generosity, especially to traveling teachers and missionaries (1:5), had spread. To affirm and thank Gaius for his Christian life–style, and to encourage him in his faith, John wrote this personal note.

John’s format for this letter centers around three men: Gaius, the example of one who follows Christ and loves others (1:1-8); Diotrephes, the self-proclaimed church leader who does not reflect God’s values (1:9-11); and Demetrius, who also follows the truth (1:12). John encourages Gaius to practice hospitality, continue to walk in the truth, and do what is right.

Although this is a personal letter, we can “look over the shoulder” of Gaius and apply its lessons to our life.

This letter portrays the church as a family united by bonds of love, with its members extending gracious hospitality toward one another. However, selfish ambition and factious jealousy imperil the church’s fellowship, and its members must guard against such attitudes and strive to maintain a loving relationship with each other.

As you read 3 John, with which man do you identify? Are you a Gaius, generously giving to others? a Demetrius, loving the truth? or a Diotrephes, looking out for yourself and your “things”? Determine to reflect Christ’s values in your relationships, opening your home and touching others with his love.

Overview

- ❖ 64th book of the BIBLE, 25th in the New Testament, 20th of the 21 epistles and 6th of the 7 epistles written by various authors
- ❖ John:
 - Was one of the original 12 apostles.
 - Was one of the inner circle of the apostles (Peter, James, & John).
 - Was the “disciple whom Jesus loved.” John 13:23
 - Was one of the first two disciples called by Jesus.
 - Was one of the “pillars” of the church at Jerusalem. Galatians 2:9
 - Near the end of his life, John lived in Ephesus.
- ❖ Near the end of the 1st century, John was exiled to the island of Patmos.
- ❖ John authored five books of the New Testament.

- John
 - 1 John
 - 2 John
 - 3 John
 - Revelation
- ❖ Only Paul authored more New Testament books than John.
 - ❖ One of two one chapter books authored by John
 - 2 John
 - 3 John
 - ❖ One of five one chapter books in the Bible:
 - Obadiah
 - Philemon
 - 2 John
 - 3 John
 - Jude
 - ❖ 3 John is the shortest book in the Bible.
 - ❖ In 3 John, John wrote to commend Gaius for the stand he had taken in receiving messengers of the truth and treating them kindly.
 - ❖ Diotrephes is trying to dominate the church. John assures Gaius that he will deal with him when he arrives there.
 - ❖ To extend hospitality to false teachers is to partake of their evil deeds.
 - ❖ 3 John makes no mention of Christ.
 - ❖ 3 John was probably delivered by Demetrius

Hebrew Names of GOD used in 3John

NA

Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

The apostle presents Jesus as the Truth in whom we should walk. Devotion to Him motivates genuine teachers in their itinerant service (v. 7). The lives of Gaius and Demetrius exactly harmonized with the teaching of Christ, and gave strong witness to the power of His love. On the other hand, the attitude of Diotrephes shows a marked contrast to the true life in which Christ is to be first in everything.

Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

The epistle does not directly refer to the Holy Spirit, but His ministry is apparent throughout its message, particularly in enabling believers to “walk in the truth” and empowering itinerant missionaries in their ministries. The fruit of the Spirit is evident in the lives of Gaius and Demetrius.

Mega Themes of 3John

John wrote to encourage those who were kind to others. Genuine hospitality for traveling Christian workers was needed then and is still important today.

Faithful Christian teachers and missionaries need our support. Whenever you can extend hospitality to others, it will make you a partner in their ministry.

Diotrephes not only refused to offer hospitality but also set himself up as a church boss. Pride disqualified him from being a real leader.

Christian leaders must shun pride and its effects on them. Be careful not to misuse your position of leadership.

Gaius and Demetrius were commended for their faithful work in the church. They were held up as examples of faithful, selfless servants.

Don't take for granted Christian workers who serve faithfully. Be sure to encourage them so they won't grow weary of serving.

Life Lessons in 3John

Truth	Lesson
<p>Growing in Godliness</p> <p>Showing hospitality to traveling teachers and ministers of the gospel is part of godly living. Welcome them into your home and provide what they need while they are with you. Then, send them on their way with a gift. By</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Be eager and faithful to show hospitality by opening your home and providing for those who labor in the gospel. Give generously to God's servants and, in so doing, honor God. ❖ Remember that a laborer is worthy of his or her wages (Luke 10:5–7).

<p>honoring them, you are honoring the Lord.</p>	
<p>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</p> <p>Show love and devotion for God through practical expressions of love. Supporting those sent out in ministry is an excellent way to express your devotion to God. As you support those sent out from the body of Christ, you, too, share in the fruit of their labor, becoming partners in the gospel. Your support is as vital as their going.</p>	<p>❖ Show your devotion to God by supporting and receiving those He sends to minister. Understand that as you support them, their work for the gospel is your work. You become a fellow worker, one who shares in the fruit of their ministry for the kingdom. The one who goes and the one who sends share equally in the harvest.</p>
<p>Pursuing Holiness</p> <p>As we pursue holiness, it is important to choose wisely those to whom we look as examples. Do not become imitators of those who are harsh, arrogant, and always want to be first. Choose to do good, showing that you are God's child.</p>	<p>❖ Imitate what is good. Do not follow the example of those who walk in pride and are given to greed and control. Your good and pure behaviour testifies that God is in you.</p>
<p>The Walk of Faith</p> <p>The walk of faith is a walk of steadfast endurance and faithfulness to the truth of the gospel. Live according to the truth, and do not waver from it. There is great joy in this.</p>	<p>❖ Live according to the truth. Remain faithful and steadfast in your walk of faith. Your faithfulness will be a joy and encouragement to others.</p>

Praise Points in 3John

- ❖ The blessings of godly friends (1:1)
- ❖ The witness of a good testimony (1:3)
- ❖ Churches where people are living in the truth (1:3-4)

- ❖ Believers who practice hospitality in Jesus' name (1:6, 8)
- ❖ Missionaries who serve the Lord by faith (1:7)
- ❖ Faithful shepherds who are bold in correcting foolish behavior (1:9-10)
- ❖ Believers who prove their sincerity by their good behavior (1:11).

Worship Insights in 3John

John's third letter can be described as a long-distance conversation to promote the joy of believers who were living for God. A characteristic of real worship is truth, believing it as well as living it. John longed to hear that the ones he cared about were living the truth they confessed (1:3-4). Like a father, he freely offered encouragement to promote this joy (1:5-8) and confronted foolishness that distracted believers from honoring the Lord (1:9-11). Worship of God is never so special as when we celebrate with the ones we know and love (1:13-14). Third John invites us to make that connection of celebrating the truth of Christ in worship with the family of God.

What we do with what we have proves whether or not we have a worshiping heart. Lifting our voice and hands to God in songs, hymns, and spiritual songs can show something about how we honor the Lord. But acts of kindness and serving hands are also means by which we display a worshiping heart. The apostle John here endorses hospitality as a significant way of worshiping God (1:6).

The worshiping community is an open one, not closed (1:5). Genuine ministries that provide food, shelter, and service demonstrate to strangers and community members alike the nature of God's love for the world. As people come to your fellowship looking to experience God's loving presence, demonstrate God's love by extending a warm welcome and seeking to meet their physical needs.

- ❖ Living in the truth of Jesus Christ is essential to bringing honor to the Lord (1:3-4, 8).
- ❖ Living in the truth promotes joy among believers (1:4).
- ❖ Offering hospitality in Jesus' name honors the Lord (1:6, 8).
- ❖ Promoting oneself brings dishonor to the Lord (1:9).
- ❖ Performing good works proves that we are God's children (1:11).

An Outline of 3John

I. The Family of God: 3Jn 1:1:1-14

A. No Greater Joy: 3Jn 1:1:1-8

B. A Question of Leadership: 3Jn 1:1:9-14