

3 John

¹ The elder,

To my dear friend Gaius,

whom I love in the truth.

² Dear friend,

I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you,

even as your soul is getting along well.

³ It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth,

telling how you continue to walk in it.

⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

⁵ Dear friend,

you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters,

even though they are strangers to you.

⁶ They have told the church about your love.

Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God.

⁷ It was for the sake of the Name that they went out,

receiving no help from the pagans.

⁸ We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth.

⁹ I wrote to the church,

but Diotrephes,

who loves to be first,

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will not welcome us.

¹⁰ So when I come,

I will call attention to what he is doing,

spreading malicious nonsense about us.

Not satisfied with that,

he even refuses to welcome other believers.

He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.

¹¹ Dear friend,

do not imitate what is evil but what is good.

Anyone who does what is good is from God.

Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.

¹² Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone—and even by the truth itself.

We also speak well of him,

and you know that our testimony is true.

¹³ I have much to write you,

but I do not want to do so with pen and ink.

¹⁴ I hope to see you soon,

and we will talk face to face.

Peace to you.

The friends here send their greetings.

Greet the friends there by name.

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3 JOHN LOOK at the Text

•	 Who are the main characters in this passage? List everything we learn about 			
	individuals or groups.			
	 The elder (the author, John) 			

Gaius

o The brothers and sisters

Diotrephes

Demetrius





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•	Who are the brothers and sign the church?	sters mentioned here? What do you think their role is
•	What gives John great joy ar	nd 'no greater joy'?
•	What should people's respon	nse be to the truth?
•	What attitudes seem to mot	ivate the actions of Gaius?

• What attitudes seem to motivate the actions of Diotrephes?



	 What danger is Diotrephes posing to the church? What could be the end result of this congregation if his actions are not corrected?
•	What are the commands in this text?
•	What words are repeated throughout these verses? When anyone repeats words or phrases they generally want you to pay attention to these ideas!
•	In this letter, John is directly contrasting the actions of Gaius and Diotrephes.
	Why is he critiquing Diotrephes?

• Why are the brothers and sisters 'going out' in this text? What does this mean?



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	0	<u>How</u> are these brothers and sisters different from those 'going out' in 2 John 7-11?
	0	How is the church supposed to respond to those who 'go out' in 2 John?
	0	How is the church supposed to respond to those who 'go out' in 3 John?
•		is John attempting to correct false teaching and wrong behaviour in this ch? What steps has he taken? What steps will he take in the future?
Pullin •		all together, then tare the main ideas in this chapter? How would you summarize each section? 3 John 1-4
	0	3 John 5-8
	0	3 John 9-10



o 3 John 11-12

o 3 John 13-15

2. LEARN from God's Word

Whole Bible Connections - Look up the following verses from other parts of scripture and note how they relate to 3 John. What do they affirm about what John is saying in this letter?

- Throughout John's letters, he refers to Christians as his children. The apostle Paul speaks of other believers in the same way. Read the following texts to see how Paul fleshes out this relationship. How does Paul view his role as a parent (in one text he talks about acting both as a mother and a father)? How should the Christians respond as his children?
 - 1 Corinthians 4:14-21

o Galatians 4:12-20



1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- Who have been your spiritual mothers and fathers? Spend some time thanking God for them today! If they are still alive, consider how you can thank them for their input into your life.
- In 2 Timothy 1: 3-7, Paul also reminds Timothy to be grateful for his biological faith heritage.

- How has your biological family impacted your faith journey? Spend some time thanking God for them today! If they are still alive, consider how you can thank them for their input into your life.
- In this letter John gives instructions on how Gaius can encourage those who "go
 out for the sake of the Name". He is speaking here from personal experience and is
 reflecting on the words of Jesus to his disciples. Read the following passages and
 note how Jesus instructed the disciples to respond to those who didn't show
 hospitality to them.
 - o Matthew 10:1-15





o Mark 6: 6b-12

o Luke 9:1-6

• John's 3 epistles and the book of Revelation end with similar words as his gospel. Read 3 John 12, John 21:24 and Revelation 22:6-8. At the end of everything he has said, what does John want his readers to know?

How have you been impacted by learning the truth from John this year?
 How have his inspired words shaped your faith?

3. LIVE in light of the Text

• What is God saying to us in this passage about His purpose for our lives?



•	How do the main ideas in this passage strengthen or challenge me to repent and change? • My Head - thoughts; beliefs; frameworks		
	 My Heart - desires; emotions 		
	My Hands - behaviours; deeds		
•	How should these main ideas influence and change my prayers? O Adoration - What can I praise and thank God for?		
	Confession - What do I need to repent of?		
	Supplication - What will I ask God for?		