



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 11-12

- 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

- Galatians 4:12-20



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- 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.
 - Matthew 10:1-15



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- 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?
 - Adoration - What can I praise and thank God for?

 - Confession - What do I need to repent of?

 - Supplication - What will I ask God for?