

Supporting the Truth

3 John

Introduction to 3rd John

1. Author – John again writes as “The Elder” – 1
He is last of the Apostles and the elder in the church
2. Recipient – Well-beloved Gaius
John wrote to the church but with no response – 9
So now he writes to one in the church whom he loves
3. Opposition – 9-10
John wrote the church evidently introducing Demetrius
But Diotrephes would not respond - 9
Perhaps saw it as a threat to his position
Threatened with excommunication
any who did support - 10
4. Theme – Welcome & support Demetrius
He is a good man and worthy of your help - 12
2 John counsels against receiving false teachers
3 John encourages support of those in the truth
If we are committed to the truth
Should we not also support those who proclaim truth

I. Walking in the Truth – 1-8

Gaius – Who Practices the Truth

1. Designation of Gaius - 1
Calls him “well-beloved” & “whom I love in the truth”
Note Acts 19:29; 20:4; 1Cor. 1:14; Rom. 16:23
Cannot definitely identify this Gaius
2. Desire for Gaius – 2
That he may prosper and be in health even as his soul prospers
John is concerned for his total wellbeing
3. Delight in Gaius – 3-4
Has a good testimony of walking in the truth
John’s delight is to know that his children walk in truth
4. Diligence of Gaius – 5-8
John commends him for faithful ministry
He ministered to the brethren and also to strangers
He had a good testimony of manifesting love
He had a reputation for showing hospitality
John urges him to continue in this ministry
These servants of the Lord are worthy of your help
Hosting them you become a fellow-helper to the truth
Don’t let anyone deter you from this good work

II. Resistance to the Truth – 9-11

Diotrephes – Who Hinders the Truth

1. He is prompted by pride & personal ambition- 9
John wrote to the church asking for their help
Diotrephes used his influence to reject John’s request
He wants to be preeminent, to rule in the church
2. His actions hinder the cause of Christ – 10
He has spoken evil of John with malicious words
He is not open to show hospitality to the brethren
He forbids and excommunicates those who would
Rather than promote the truth he hinders it
3. John’s counsel to Gaius – 11
Don’t allow Diotrephes to influence you to do evil

Continue in your ministry to do good to God’s servant

Those who do good are of God

Those who do evil have not seen God

III. Consistent with the Truth – 12-14

Demetrius – has a reputation for the Truth

1. He has a good report of all who know him - 12
The church where John is stands behind him
His life & ministry are consistent with the truth
John can personally recommend him with confidence
2. John sends greetings to Gaius – 13-14
John will keep this letter brief but hopes to visit soon
He looks forward to seeing Gaius again
He sends greetings of peace from all his friends