

Bible Studies

3 John

Read 3 John (Yes all of it).

This book was written by the Apostle John. It is one of 5 books he wrote that we have, **the others are?**

John mentions three people by name. All of them seemed to have held positions of influence in the Church. **they are?**

The Church of the first century relied heavily on itinerant ministry. It also took hospitality for believers as they travelled from place to place as the responsibility of the Church. (There was, in practice, nowhere else they could stay.)

It looks like a group (or groups) of believers from John's church had recently visited the church to whom 3 John was written, and received a very mixed welcome.



Gaius

Gaius is the person the letter was sent to. He seems to have been a personal friend of John and was perhaps saved under John's ministry. There are several people called Gaius mentioned in the New Testament, but it was a very common name and we have no strong evidence to link him with any of the others.

**What are the two kinds of health John mentions in verse 2?
How do you assess spiritual health?**

What report had John received about Gaius?

v3

v6

**What is the difference between being faithful to the truth and walking in the truth?
Had Gaius shown hospitality to the brothers?**

What exhortation does John give Gaius? Why?

John encourages Gaius to continue with his hospitality, perhaps for fear he will yield to pressure from Diotrephes.

Consider: Matthew 10:41

What implications does this have for us?

*Anyone who gives to a missionary because he is a missionary will receive a missionary's reward,
Matthew 10:41 RAV'*

How important do you think hospitality is?

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Diotrephes

What was Diotrephes doing?

What was Diotrephes problem?

Read mark 9v36-37

Diotrephes loved too, he loved to be first! Pride had got the better of him and he had 'lost connection to the head'. Diotrephes wanted to be first. He wanted people to look to him and recognise his authority. This is why he tried to keep John out of the Church for fear people would recognise John at his expense.

What attitude should he have taken?

What will happen if this kind of ambition is found in the Church?



Can you push yourself forward without hurting others?

If you are insecure in your position, will you need to defend yourself at other expense?

If you are always critical of others, what does it say about you?

Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned. Titus 3:10

What does divisive mean?

What effect is a divisive person going to have?

It was far more important that Diotrephes was honoured by the people, he cared too little that Christ honoured him.

How do you advance in the Church?

It is of little importance if you do advance in the Church, what is important is that you advance before God. We receive our reward when God sees our work, not men. Matthew 6v1-2.

Reading verse 11 in context, what is John saying about Diotrephes?

By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. Matthew 7v16-20

What does it mean to imitate what is good?



Demetrius

What is the report about Demetrius?

Who are the three groups that witness about Demetrius?

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What do you think 'Even the truth itself' means?

Some people think that 'the truth' is another way of saying God. Alternatively it could mean that the Gospel is so much evidenced by his live, that he has become living evidence of it's truth. His actions witness for him.



What kind of a letter would people write about you?

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John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John & Revelation.

John mentions three people by name. All of them seemed to have held positions of influence in the Church. **they are?**

Gaius

Diotrephes

Demetrius

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v3 *Faithful to the truth*

Walking in the truth

v6 *his love*

**What is the difference between being faithful to the truth and walking in the truth?
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What exhortation does John give Gaius? Why?

John encourages Gaius to continue with his hospitality, perhaps for fear he will yield to pressure from Diotrephes.

Consider: Matthew 10:41

What implications does this have for us?

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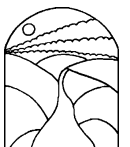
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Diotrephes

What was Diotrephes doing?

Will have nothing to do with John

Suppressed the letter

Gossips maliciously

Refuses to receive the visitors from John

Forces others out of the Church

What was Diotrephes problem?

He wanted to be first

Read mark 9v36-37

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What attitude should he have taken?

What will happen if this kind of ambition is found in the Church?

People are going to get hurt



Can you push yourself forward without hurting others?

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Everyone

Even the truth

John

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