

3 John

Introduction

- The Apostle John writes a postcard to a man names Gaius
- This short memo speaks of three individuals: Gaius, Diotrephes & Demetrius
- This letter is written to a man in the church with warnings about trouble inside the church itself

I. Gaius, the Well Loved

A. Personal greetings from John

3 John 1:1-2 The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

1. He writes to a man names Gaius – possibly a leader in a church
2. He wishes prosperity and good health to him

B. Personal qualities of Gaius

1. His soul prospered

3 John 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

- a) He is commended for his spiritual growth and maturity
- b) Just as physical health is the result of nutrition, exercise, cleanliness, proper rest and a balanced life – spiritual health also requires proper care

2. He had a good testimony

3 John 1:3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

- a) He was well-spoken of by others
- b) He had the truth in him

3. He walked in the truth

3 John 1:3-4 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

- a) The best example of having the truth is walking in it
- b) Walking in truth is obeying God's commands

4. His faithful service to others

3 John 1:5-8 Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

a) He had shown hospitality to those who were travelling

(1) Church planters, missionaries

(2) Guests, strangers

b) He brought them forward on their journey

(1) Financial provisions

(2) Food and clothing

c) He was a fellow helper

(1) Those who traveled did so for the cause of Christ

(2) Their desire was to reach the Gentile without leaning on them for support

Romans 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my **helpers** in Christ Jesus:

2 Corinthians 8:23 Whether any do enquire of Titus, he is my partner and **fellowhelper** concerning you: or our brethren be enquired of, they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ.

Philippians 2:25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and **companion in labour**, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

1 Thessalonians 3:2 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our **fellowlabourer** in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

II. Diotrophes, the Dictator

A. Personal remarks from John

3 John 1:9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrophes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

1. He had previously written a letter to the church possibly requesting an invitation to come

2. He received notice that he was not welcome

B. Prideful characteristics

1. Loves attention and position of leadership

3 John 1:9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

2. Resistant to authority – did not submit to the apostles

3 John 1:9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

3. Critical of others

3 John 1:10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

a) Prating – talking much with little content or reason

b) Malicious – hurtful words

4. Discontentment

3 John 1:10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

a) Always desiring more

b) Never satisfied

5. Isolation from others

3 John 1:10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

a) He did not welcome the apostle John

b) He did not receive other brethren

c) He was not willing to receive help or encouragement – we don't need you

6. Control freak

3 John 1:10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren,

and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

- a) Desiring to control others with intimidation and threats
- b) Casting those out of the church who do not submit to your authority

III. Demetrius, a Godly Example to Follow

A. Definition of one to follow

3 John 1:11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

- 1. Don't follow evil – follow good
- 2. He that doeth evil does not know God

B. Example of one to follow – Demetrius (maybe the mailman)

3 John 1:12 Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

- 1. He had a good testimony and report from others
- 2. He had the truth in him
- 3. He was approved of by the apostle John

Conclusion

3 John 1:13-14 I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee: But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.

- John wrote very little in this short postcard but desired to speak with them in person soon
- He sends peace, and personal greetings to each of his friends