

Flag Branch Missionary Baptist Church  
Baptist Training Union

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> John**  
How Should A Christian Live

**Study 13 – Being Given To Hospitality – 3 John**

1. The Elder, to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth:
2. Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.
3. For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.
4. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in [a]truth.
5. Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren [b]and for strangers,
6. Who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well,
7. Because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles.
8. We therefore ought to receive[c] such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.
9. I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.
10. Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating[d] against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church.
11. Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, [e]but he who does evil has not seen God.
12. Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also [f]bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true.
13. I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink;
14. But I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face. Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

1. 3 John 1:4 NU *the truth*
2. 3 John 1:5 NU *and especially for*
3. 3 John 1:8 NU *support*
4. 3 John 1:10 *talking nonsense*
5. 3 John 1:11 NU, M omit *but*
6. 3 John 1:12 *testify*

## Discussion

- A. **John states that he loves Gaius "in the truth".** What does this reveal about Christian relationships? Compare relationships rooted in truth and faith rather than shared interests or social connections? v. 1
- B. **John prayer for Gaius' health and prosperity reveals concern and understanding for spiritual well-being.** How should believers balance concern for physical health, material needs, and spiritual growth?" v. 2
- C. **John was encouraged by the report that Gaius was walking in the truth.** What does "walking in the truth" mean? What evidence demonstrates a believer is walking in the truth not merely professing faith? v. 3
- D. **Why do you think John describe hearing that believers walk in truth as his greatest joy?** What does this verse teach parents, pastors, mentors, and church leaders about their priorities in ministry? v. 4
- E. **Why do you think John commend Gaius for faithfully serving fellow believers and strangers?** How can believers today demonstrate faithful service and hospitality to people they may not know personally? v. 5
- F. **What does the testimony of Gaius' love reveal about the connection between faith and action?** How can a local church cultivate a reputation for love that is visible both inside and outside the congregation? v. 6
- G. **Why was it important that traveling Christian workers depend on believers rather than unbelievers for support?** What does this teach about supporting the work and workers of the church? v. 7
- H. **What do you think John means by believers become "fellow workers for the truth" through their support of God's servants?** What are practical ways believers can participate in gospel ministry? v. 8
- I. **What does desire for preeminence reveal about the dangers of pride and ambition within the church?** How can believers recognize and guard against this in their own service, leadership, or ministry? v. 9
- J. **Why do you think John strongly condemn Diotrephes' actions toward faithful believers and church leaders?** What does this teach us about accountability, leadership, and the misuse of authority? v. 10
- K. **Why do you think John urges believers to imitate good rather than evil within the message of the letter?** What examples are there for believers to follow? What's more important: to be or have an example? v. 11.
- L. **Demetrius was commended by people and the truth itself.** What does this suggest about a Believer's character? In describing your Christian witness, what qualities would you hope people would identify? v. 12
- M. **Why do you think John prefer a personal visit rather than communicating everything through a letter?** How important is personal fellowship in an age dominated by technology and digital communication? v. 13
- N. **What do you think John's closing emphasis on peace, friendship, and personal greetings reveal about the early church?** How can believers strengthen true fellowship and unity within the church community? v. 14