

3 John

Generally / Specifically

Back in 2 John, John dealt generally with people who try to lead the sheep astray. He never mentioned them by name, only generally. But here in 3 John he will identify specifically a person causing trouble in the church. There is clearly a time when we have to point out someone specific who is or can cause harm to the family.

Encourager / Egotist / Example

In this final epistle in which John deals with specific problems in the church, he'll refer to three personalities (2 are commendable, 1 is terrible). The first is an encourager named Gaius, seen in verses 1–8. The second is an egotist named Diotrephes, seen in verses 9–11. The third is an example named Demetrius, seen in verse 12.

Outline for 3 John:

Gaius the Encourager - 3 John 3:1-8

Diotrephes the Egotist - 3 John 3:9-11

Demetrius the Example - 3 John 12

Farewell - 3 John 13-14

Gaius the Encourager - 3 John 3:1-8

(3 John 1:1 NKJV) THE ELDER, To the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth:

Patmos / 100 / Gaius Maybe Led to Lord by John

John the Elder, most likely written after his exile in Patmos. John according to church writings was ministering in the area of Ephesus, and is probably close to 100 years old. He is writing to Gaius, who gets to be mentioned specifically for the remaining history of the world. John says he loves him, and in verse 4 John says he has no greater joy than to hear that his children walk in the truth, so possibly Gaius was led to the Lord by John himself.

(3 John 1:2 NKJV) Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

Name it Claim Refer / Fail to see it is a Prayer

"Name It And Claim It" teachers love to camp on this verse. The prosperity teachers refer to it, saying, "God wants everyone to be healthy and to prosper financially." But in so doing, they fail to understand that John is not propounding a principle, but offering a prayer.

We Pray Blessing – But Understand God's Will / Preach – Teach Sermons / Word became Flesh

Because I want my kids to be blessed, because I want you to be blessed, I pray this prayer as well. But I also understand that God's ways are not my ways, and sometimes it is only through brokenness and pain that blessing and ministries are born. Some of us preach/teach sermons. Others are sermons as they continually deal with pain, loss, and struggle. Some people are the "word" that became flesh. We all should be living epistles, but some are large print bibles as they exuberate the love and joy of the Lord in the midst of such suffering:

(2 Corinthians 3:2 NKJV) **You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;**

(2 Corinthians 3:3 NKJV) *clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.*

Heresy – Lack Faith / Don't Realize others Made Healthier- Wealthier / Russell's Mom

It is heresy for anyone to imply that those who are sick lack faith or that those who are poor are second-rate believers. Often when hard times come upon us we wonder if God is punishing us, no, not so for all of God's wrath for our sins was poured out there on Calvary's Cross. Those that preach such garbage do

not realize how many people have been made healthier and wealthier because of such brothers and sister who suffer are lead others deeper in the Lord. I'll never forget my friend Russel in Bible College, his mother had terminal cancer, great pain, yet every person that walked into the hospital room she would say if you have come to see me, you have come to see my Jesus, and before she died she lead 10 staffers to the Lord. Some people are Large Print Bibles.

(3 John 1:3 NKJV) For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.

(3 John 1:4 NKJV) I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Present Participle – They kept Coming

As the brethren came, it is in the present participle meaning they (brethren) were continually coming back to John and saying Gaius was such a blessing to us.

5 Things Gaius Known For

We will see 5 things that are said of Gaius, and the first one is here in verse 3, he was known for walking in the truth, may we be a people that are known for walking in the truth.. These 5 things we too should seek to attain in our personal walk for Gaius is recorded here specifically for the all of eternity. We will see Gaius was:

- Was Known for his Walking in the Truth (v.3)
- Was Known for his Faithful (v.4)
- Was Known for his Hospitality (v.5-7)
- Was Known for his Giving (v.6-7)
- Was Known for his Love (v.6)

(3 John 1:5 NKJV) Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers,

(3 John 1:6 NKJV) 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,

(3 John 1:7 NKJV) because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles.

Before Motel 6 / House Missionaries – Financially Bless

In the days before Motel 6, Gaius would not only house itinerant preachers, apostles, and prophets, but he would provide for them financially so that, as they journeyed, they wouldn't have to take anything from the Gentiles. So he would put them up for the night, and then give them provisions to make it to their next stop.

We Can Do Same / Consider This – Assist People on Journey to Heaven

We can do the same today as we provide for missionaries and workers of the gospel. But consider this; we also assist people on their journey toward heaven by reminding them of the truths of God, His faithfulness towards them, His hospitality, His Giving, and His great love towards them., It is our privilege and our responsibility to say to people, "God will do what He promised. He will never leave you. He will see you through here on earth." And it is also our privilege and responsibility to direct their eyes to heaven. After all, it was by immediately directing their hearts to heaven that Jesus could calm the disciples' troubled hearts on earth (John 14:1–2).

(John 14:1 NKJV) "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

(John 14:2 NKJV) "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Leave Heaven Out of Equation – Desperate People / Direct hearts Towards Heaven

If one takes heaven out of the equation, he's left with desperate, disturbed, depressed people. Heaven in the equation changes everything. Keep helping people along on their journey, keep pointing and directing their hearts to heaven, helping them along on their journey. Live life backwards, from heaven, and direct peoples heart from there.

Was Known for his Faithful (v.4)

Important Part Ministry / Not Most Talented – Most Dependable / Good and Faithful

*Verse 4 - Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers - Gaius was known for his faithfulness. You know one of the most important parts of the ministry (and life for that matter) is to be faithful. God isn't concerned with who is the most gifted and talented, God is looking for those who are faithful. A man or woman may have all kinds of talents and gifts, but if they are not faithful, dependable, then they are of little value. In fact in the end they usually cause more trouble than good because they disappoint so many people. God would rather take a person of less talent, but can stay faithful, can see it through to the end, than take the person who starts with a flash and burns out and fades away quickly. A person may be a great something in the ministry, but if they are continually being drawn away to other interests, their ministry will fall apart and people will be left out in the cold. This is encouraging to me, for God says well done thy good and faithful servant, not thy good and successful servant:
(Matthew 25:23 NKJV) "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

Faithfulness Up to Me / Don't Struggle over Talents

Faithfulness, is up to me, I can choose with my free-will how faithful I will be to the Lord. God gives me all I need to be faithful, it is my decision how faithful I will be. It is the same with sin, God has given me everything to overcome sin, but I sin now because I chose to. So faithfulness is up to me, but as for success, it has nothing to do with me, for success is dependant on how God desires to work in that situation (for His ways are above my ways). Precious people don't struggle and stress over you talents, just be faithful to whatever God has called you to do. If you sign-up, show up. Do what you say you are going to do, and may God bless each and all of you abundantly for your faithfulness to things of the Lord.

Was Known for his Hospitality (v.5-7)

Safe Haven

Gaius was known for his hospitality, as he would put these traveling ministers up. Mind you this was in the day when people were being persecuted and killed for their faith. These traveling evangelist and apostles would continually be susceptible to beatings and scourging for preaching the word, Gaius gave them a place where they could sleep without fear of being stabbed in their sleep. Gaius would therefore also be placing himself at risk, along with his reputation. May our homes be a safe haven for all that enter in, for all that dwell, especially our children.

Was Known for his Giving (v.6-7)

Enough for Next City – No Gentile Help / Passion for Gospel / Behind Scenes

(3 John 1:7 NKJV) because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. - Gaius was known for providing for these missionaries not just when they were at his house, but he also gave them enough to make it to their next stop, and never needing help from an unbeliever. You know the quote from the unbeliever, well if their God is so great, then why are they asking me for help, seeking my money in this fundraiser. Gaius had a passionate heart to see the gospel spread throughout the land, so much so that he sacrificed to see it happen. You know maybe Gaius wanted to be a missionary, maybe he wanted to be an evangelist, I don't know but I look forward to meeting him in heaven and saying Gaius, ahh tell me your story. Gaius is the example of one sows, another waters, and another reaps. Gaius was a behind the scenes guy, but he didn't care about his names in light, he just wanted to see the gospel proclaimed and furthered. Notice something, God noticed him, and others appreciated him. Hey if you can't go, then send:

(Romans 10:13 NKJV) For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

(Romans 10:14 NKJV) How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

*(Romans 10:15 NKJV) **And how shall they preach unless they are sent?** As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"*

(1 Corinthians 3:6 NKJV) I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

(1 Corinthians 3:7 NKJV) So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

(1 Corinthians 3:8 NKJV) Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

(1 Corinthians 3:9 NKJV) For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

God Commends / 10 Pastors

God commends Gaius for his love and service to these missionaries, so let me do the same, let me give you something to feel good about today. We as a church were so blessed this month that we were able to provide for 10 pastors in Nepal to attend a Pastors Conference, to be refreshed, to be equipped, and to be encouraged so that they may go back and bless their flock, and do the work of an evangelist in their hometown. God says these very same words to you today:

Verse 6 - you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well

Was Known for his Love (v.6)

Known for love

Verse 6 - who have borne witness of your love before the church - Gaius was known for his love as he did these things:

- Was Known for his Walking in the Truth (v.3)
- Was Known for his Faithful (v.4)
- Was Known for his Hospitality (v.5-7)
- Was Known for his Giving (v.6-7)

(3 John 1:8 NKJV) We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.

Don't be Skeptical / Stay balanced

Whereas previously John had said, "Don't let deceivers into your house" (see 2 John 10), here he says, "Don't become so skeptical that you keep everyone out." Be like Gaius, but in the bounds of what we studied in 2 John, we can't support those propagating false doctrine which would help them in leading more astray.

Diotrephes the Egotist - 3 John 3:9-11

Complete Opposite / Loved Preeminence

Now Diotrephes, a complete opposite of Gaius. Diotrephes loved to have preeminence, which means loves to be first, foremost, most important, first in order, chief, the head.

(3 John 1:9 NKJV) I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.

(3 John 1:10 NKJV) Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating 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.

(3 John 1:11 NKJV) Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

NIV Translation:

(3 John 1:9 NIV) I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will have nothing to do with us.

(3 John 1:10 NIV) So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, gossiping maliciously about us. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.

(3 John 1:11 NIV) 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.

Loves Honor / No Competition / Speaks Lies of Them / Excommunicate

The apostle John says this guy Diotrephes loves to be honored, and does not want competition to the that honor, so much so that he will not receive us into the church, he blocks our way. And when we are away he is speaking lies about us to get people to turn against us, so that he may keep his control over them. So much so that if anyone ever sides with John or someone else, this Diotrephes throws them out of the church.

Attacking John

You have to step back and look at this guy Diotrephes. He is attacking one of the greatest servants of God on the whole planet. He is telling people that John is evil. Imagine that statement, he is attacking a man that walked with Jesus personally for some 3 years, a man that was there at the cross, the very man

that Jesus entrusted His mother to (John 19:26-27), a man that because of his witness was thrown in a pot of boiling oil, a man because of his testimony was exiled to the island of Patmos, a man who was given the Revelation of the Last Days, who was taken up into heaven to see and hear it, a man who was 100 years old, and still preaching the word, yet this Diotrephes was spreading gossip about him. Amazingly, some people believed his lies and attack.

If Lead Against John – Easy Today

If someone could lead people to turn against the Apostle John, then how much more so can it be done in the day we live in. For must be on guard against these types of people.

Not good Testimony / Recorded for 2000 yrs / Jesus said Matthew 18

Diotrephes, not a good testimony, and here it is recorded all for eternity, recorded by name in the best seller for 2000 years. There is a time when it is necessary to point a person out specific, bring them before the Church and deal with them publicly for the sake and safety of the flock. Verse 11 points out that these type of people are evil; I just quoting what the Scriptures says. Jesus spoke specifically of this also:

(Matthew 18:15 NKJV) "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

(Matthew 18:16 NKJV) "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

(Matthew 18:17 NKJV) "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

Comparison

Look at the comparison of Gaius versus Diotrephes:

- Gaius Was Known for his Walking in the Truth (v.3) / Diotrephes was spreading lies through malicious gossip (v.10).
- Gaius Was Known for his Faithful (v.4) / Diotrephes was unfaithful to the Lord, gathering people to himself rather than to the Lord (9-10).
- Gaius Was Known for his Hospitality (v.5-7) / Diotephes wanted preeminence, to be served and honored (v.9).
- Gaius Was Known for his Giving (v.6-7) / Diotephes rather than receiving and giving, he was taking and forbidding, holding onto his things and people as if they were his and not the Lord's (v.10-11).
- Gaius Was Known for his Love (v.6) / Diotrephes because of all these things, the Lord calls him evil (v.11). Love never seeks its own (1 Corinthians 13:5): (1 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV) does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

Jesus worthy Preeminence / Anything Else is Less

There is only 1 that is worthy of preeminence, that is Jesus Christ. Not that go is an egotist, but because we look anywhere else than to God for our needs, we will fall greatly short of all that God desires for us, and that is the dangers of people like Diotrephes, they keep people from being all that God desires them to be:

(Colossians 1:15 NKJV) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

(Colossians 1:16 NKJV) For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

(Colossians 1:17 NKJV) And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

*(Colossians 1:18 NKJV) And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, **that in all things He may have the preeminence.***

(Colossians 1:19 NKJV) For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,

Only the God Man

For you see, man can only lead man as far as he has gone himself. No man has gone to the cross and fully understands the love and grace of the cross. No man has died and rose again and has the power to proclaim the victory over sin and death. And no man is seated at the right hand of the Father living to make intercessor forever more. No man, only the God-Man. Ministry precious people is leading people past your arms, into the arms of Jesus Christ. I like what the President of the Bible College use to always say, if you go through your whole life never meeting me, you've missed nothing, you go through your whole life never meeting Jesus, you've missed everything.

There is a Time / In Love – Direct Them Back / John can Relate

There is a time, but when that time comes let it be in love (back in Matthew 18 they are to be considered a heathen or a tax collector, and what were we to do to them, love them so that they might know the Lord). Let it be done in love so that we might direct them back to the Lord, use it as an opportunity to show them the error of their ways, their carnal desires that need to be crucified. You see John can relate to this:

(Matthew 20:20 NKJV) Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.

(Matthew 20:21 NKJV) And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."

(Matthew 20:22 NKJV) But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able."

(Matthew 20:23 NKJV) So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father."

(Matthew 20:24 NKJV) And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers.

(Matthew 20:25 NKJV) But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.

(Matthew 20:26 NKJV) "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

(Matthew 20:27 NKJV) "And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave;

(Matthew 20:28 NKJV) "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Conditioned by World / Need to be Reprogrammed / Immature

This can be such a hard thing for all of us. We are conditioned in this world to rise to the top, it is so easy for us in the world to become self-centered, its all about me. Then we get saved, we come into the church, and we need to be reprogrammed, completely rewired, from seeking to be first, to becoming a slave. So at that point that person isn't evil, they are immature, and need to grow in the things of the Lord.

(Matthew 20:27 NKJV) "And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave;

God Gracious / But there is a Time

I can relate to John, I remember when I first got saved, I had self-desires to be recognized as a man of God, as a leader in the church. But the fact of the matter was that I was not equipped nor grounded to be anything more than I was, a student. So God was gracious with John, He was gracious and patient with me, and so too should we be with others. But, if the person is bringing harm upon the flock, they must be dealt with, and if they won't repent, then they need to leave the church.

Demetrius the Example - 3 John 12

(3 John 1:12 NKJV) Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true.

Not Sure what he Did / Great Testimony / Make Life Count

What did he do we do not know, but he was known by all. He had a great testimony and it was known by all. May we all be Demetrius. Beloved, make your life count, make your life count.

Farewell - 3 John 13-14

(3 John 1:13 NKJV) I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink;

(3 John 1:14 NKJV) 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.

More than Coincidental

I find it more than coincidental that John closes three of his four books, saying, in essence, "There's so much more to say."

(John 21:25 NKJV) And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

(2 John 1:12 NKJV) Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

(3 John 1:13 NKJV) I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink;

So Much to Say / Thoroughly Know what he Says

Oh I have so much to say, there is so much to say. Christian this book is what has been said, and yet there is so much more left to be said, it would behoove us to at least thoroughly know what has been said.

Revelation

But you what I like, John ends his fifth book, Revelation, with:

(Revelation 22:18 NKJV) For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

(Revelation 22:19 NKJV) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

(Revelation 22:20 NKJV) He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

(Revelation 22:21 NKJV) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Nothing More to Say / Are you Ready / be like Gaius while we Wait

There is nothing more to say about that, Jesus is coming soon and when He comes it is done, are you ready? Let us be like Gaius and Demetrius while we wait, lets make our life count.