

3 John

-Like 2 John, this short letter was written by God through the apostle John.

Let's read 3 John 1

1-The elder, To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

-We are not sure who this Gaius is, as his name was very common among the Romans.

-Even though the book is written to Gaius, it is for all Christians.

-Once again, God through John teaches us the importance of knowing the truths of God.

Let's read 3 John 2

2-Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

-This verse does not guarantee health and wealth for every Christian.

-God never guarantees health and wealth for anyone.

-In fact, the Lord Jesus said that we will have tribulation

on this earth (John 16:33).

-John was simply praying for the physical health of Gaius, but also for his spiritual health.

-Some only pray for the physical health of others while we should also be praying for the spiritual health of others.

-Our spiritual health is infinitely more important than our physical health.

Let's read 3 John 3-4

3-It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it.

4-I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

-As it is written in 2 John, that which is most important in life are the truths of God.

-John was older when this letter was written, and he considers Gaius to be his spiritual child, and considers himself to be Gaius' spiritual father.

-When we become older in the faith of Christ, we should also have spiritual children like John, to teach them and to encourage them.

Let's read 3 John 5

5-Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you.

-Whatever we do, we should be faithful to God.

-If we are working at a job that the world would call not important, we should be faithful to God in the work.

-If we are working at a job that the world would call important, we should be faithful to God in the work.

-In Colossians 3:23, the Word of God says this:

-“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”

-The type of work that we do is not as important as for whom we are working.

-We could have what the world calls an important job, but if we are working for ourselves, we will receive no reward in heaven.

-We could have what the world calls an unimportant job, but if we are working for God, we will receive a reward in heaven.

-Therefore, whatever we do, we should be faithful to God

in the work.

Let's read 3 John 6-8

6-They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God.

7-It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans.

8-We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth.

-From these verses, we know that Gaius had fellow Christians staying with him in his house as they were traveling and teaching others the Word of God.

-While these Christians received no help from non believers, they did receive help from fellow Christians.

-In this world, there are only two families—the family of God and the family of Satan.

-As Christians, we should all be working together as one family for the truths of God.

-Satan tries to separate Christians so that they do not work together, but God wants us to work together.

-Are those who teach about God more important than those who allow them to stay in their homes?

-No.
-Before God, we are all important.

-Here is an example:

-When David went out to recapture the people and their belongings that the Amalekites had stolen, some of David's men stayed behind.

-After having recaptured the people and their belongings, some of David's men did not want the men who had stayed behind to receive anything.

-Here is what David said:

-“The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike” (1 Samuel 30:24).

-This example teaches us that everyone should be working together, and that no one is more important than the other.

-Jesus promised that even the help offered in a cup of cold water to one of His children would not be forgotten when God brings His reward (Matthew 10:42).

-Jesus also said this:

-“He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. He who receives a

prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward” (Matthew 10:40-41).

-While Gaius was a good example, Diotrephes was a bad example:

Let's read 3 John 9-10

9-I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us.

10-So when I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, spreading malicious nonsense about us. Not satisfied with that, he even refuses to welcome other believers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.

-Although we do not know who Diotrephes is, it seems as if he was the leader of one of the churches.

-Here were some of Diotrephes' problems:

-He was not welcoming believers from other churches into “his church.”

-He was putting believers out of “his church” who wanted to welcome believers from other churches.

-Diotrephes was also not even welcoming into “his church” the apostle John, but rather was spreading

malicious nonsense about him.

-This is a big problem which we see in many leaders in many churches.

-Some church leaders think that the church belongs to them, and that they are the king of “their churches.”

-The church, however, does not belong to people, but to the Lord Jesus Christ.

-The Lord Jesus said that He would build His church (Matthew 16:18).

-It is the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, and not the church of people.

-Also, the church should not be led by one “king,” but rather should be led by many elders.

-This is why we have teaching about elders in the books of 1 Timothy 5 and Titus 1.

-When the church is led by many elders, then they will not have the problems of Diotrephes.

-We should always welcome other believers in Christ.

Let’s read 3 John 11-12

11-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.

12-Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone—and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.

-From verse 11 above, we understand that even though Diotrephes was the leader of a church, he was not a born-again Christian.

-Does being a leader of a church make you a Christian?
-No.

-There may be many leaders of many churches who are not born-again Christians.

-While Diotrephes had many problems, Demetrius was spoken well of, even by the truth.

-It is our obedience to the truth which speaks well of us.

Let’s read 3 John 13-15

13-I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink.

14-I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.

15-Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name.