

## The Three Men of Third John

### I. Introduction

- Written by “The Elder” commonly recognized as John
- Written to Gaius
- Written during the early church, around 90AD
- Continues the theme of fellowship seen in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> John
- Illustrates contrasting Christians

### II. The Three Men of Third John

#### A. The Commendation of Gaius (a man whom John would have prosper)

1. How does John encourage him?
  - a. By telling him that he \_\_\_\_\_ him (verse 1)
  - b. By \_\_\_\_\_ for him (verse 2)
  - c. By telling him of his good \_\_\_\_\_ known among the brethren (verse 3)
2. Why does John encourage him?
  - a. Because of the truth that was \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 3)
  - b. Because he was \_\_\_\_\_ in the truth (verse 3)
3. What is John emphasizing in the first three verses?

The word \_\_\_\_\_ is found 4 times in the first four verses
4. What does John encourage Gaius to do?

To keep being \_\_\_\_\_ to the brethren and even for strangers (verse 5-6)
5. Why is it important for Gaius to be hospitable?
  - a. Because of His name’s sake (verse 7a). His name must refer to \_\_\_\_\_ because His name is above every name (Philippians 2:9-11)
  - b. Because Christian preachers did not accept anything from \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 7b)
  - c. So that they could be \_\_\_\_\_ for the truth (verse 8)

## **B. The Condemnation of Diotrephes (a man who wills to be prominent)**

1. The underlying problem of Diotrephes was that he was \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 9)
2. What was Diotrephes doing that John specifically condemns?
  - a. He was \_\_\_\_\_ against them with \_\_\_\_\_ words (verse 10a)
  - b. He was not being \_\_\_\_\_ to the traveling ministers (verse 10b)
  - c. He was \_\_\_\_\_ others in the church from being hospitable (verse 10c) even kicking them out of the church
3. Who does John tell Gaius to be an imitator of?
  - a. Negatively, not those who are \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 11a)  
Examples:
  - b. Positively, those who are \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 11b)  
Examples:

## **C. The Recommendation of Demetrius (a man who is a pattern)**

1. Why was John recommending Demetrius
  - a. Because of his good \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ the brethren (verse 12b)
  - b. From the \_\_\_\_\_ itself, meaning his life was an example of a Christ honoring life (verse 12b)
  - c. John \_\_\_\_\_ could vouch for his good testimony (verse 12c)

## **III. Conclusion/Lessons learned**

- Christians are not always what they should be...
- Christians often imitate others...
- Christians can fall at any point in our walk, if we allow the spirit of Diotrephes to reign...
- What is your reputation? If someone was going to write about you what would they say?