

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 1st and 2nd 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?