

- Shortest epistle in the N.T.
- Addresses 3 people by name
- Letter of Encouragement & Direction
- Problem in the church that will be addressed
- As Believers, you are a witness
 - you can point to truth with your life
 - you can detract from truth with your life

Your words, actions, all testify to what's in your heart

3 John 1 "The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God."

"For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church. Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God."

"Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true.

I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink. I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.

Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, each by name."

1. Gaius

- be encouraged and continue on.....
- lay leader living on mission, truth at work
- prayer for Gaius physical, spiritual health
- a) Your life is leaving an Impact
 - clear you love God & serve his people
 - gives those who invested in you great joy
 - those who have experienced it testify
 - inspires others to live out truth

- b) Your Hospitality evidences truth
 - faithful thing to make effort & serve
 - strangers those travelling to serve church
- c) Send them on well
 - encouraged to continue on, send them
 - manner worthy of God
 - resource them as you are able

d) Why

- called by God to go obedient & going in faith
- partners in the gospel going forward

2. Diotrephes

- influencer in the church causing problems
- probably great conflict over this issue locally
- a) Unwilling to accept John's authority
 - pride rejecting John and his correction

- b) Spreading Lies and Rumors
 - when John not around to confront
- c) Refusing hospitality and fellowship
 - guilt by association
- d) Imposing will on others
 - holding fellowship hostage

John has been clear in 2 John 1:7-11

- there are instances to with-hold hospitality and support
- not if you simply don't accept authority

2 John 1:7-11 "For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works."

3. Demetrius

- an example you can follow
- learn from and imitate authentic truth followers
- Phil. 3:17 "Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us."
 - 1 Cor. 11:1 "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."
- Heb. 10:24 "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works"

- a) imitate the good
 - testimony from others authentic
 - consistent with truth revealed
 - there are those you can trust, imitate
- b) reject the evil
 - do not imitate those like Diotrephes
 - in the body but not acting on truth

- 4. Looking forward to being together
 - will share in person much more
 - peace even in conflict and issues
 - greetings brothers and sister in Christ

So What

- 1. You are a witness, what kind will you be?
- 2. Encourage those being faithful
 - identify and testify to the impact
 - encourage continued service
- 3. How is your hospitality? Support of those who by faith follow God's call in this world? Your effort?
- 4. Be under Authority careful who you imitate
- 5. Walk in the truth revealed to you