

Worksheet #3: 3 John 1–14 (NKJV)

THE ELDER, To the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth:

² Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

³ For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

⁵ Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers,⁶ 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,⁷ because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles.⁸ We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.

⁹ I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.

¹² 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.

¹³ I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink;¹⁴ 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.

Interpretation: *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. When the Elder speaks of Gaius, he says that he “love[s him] in truth” (v. 1). What does it mean to love “in truth”?
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2. What does it mean to “walk in truth” (v. 4), and how can others see that a person is doing that?
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3. What does John mean when he describes the generosity of Gaius as a “faithful” act (v. 5)?
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4. What does it mean to support someone in “a manner worthy of God” (v. 6)?
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5. Why does John believe that supporting the emissaries in “a manner worthy of God” is a good thing (v. 6–7)? What is the result of this kind of action (v. 8)?
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6. What distinguishes Diotrephes from Gaius (v. 9–10)? Why are Diotrephes’ actions reprehensible?
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7. Explain this phrase: “He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God” (v. 11)?
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8. From what source does Demetrius derive his credibility (v. 12)?
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9. What do vv. 13–14 teach us about the biblical way to handle personal confrontation?
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Application: *Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.*

10. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?
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11. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?
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