



## Pray

How does the testimony of Gaius inspire you to pray?

How does the work of missionaries lead you to pray?

How can this passage impact the way you pray for those who are divisive and disrespect authority?



### Walking in Truth | 3 John

Study Guide 17 for sermon on 04/25/2021



## Introduction

What comes to your mind when you think of the word *hospitality*? While we enjoy being around those who are hospitable, we also recognize the work associated with hospitality. Hospitality often includes muddy floors, dirty dishes, altered schedules, and inconvenience. Yet, biblical hospitality sees the cost (which is significant) and weighs it in comparison to the reward—loving others, supporting missionaries, and caring for others whether it be through a meal or through lodging.

Gaius (the recipient of the letter) is commended for his hospitality and generosity. He is commended for his faithfulness in word and in deed. While 3 John is the shortest of all the New Testament books, it has a message for us as we seek to be faithful, selfless servants.



## Overview

In this short letter of fifteen verses, we can look over the shoulder of Gaius as he receives this personal letter from John. John gives us examples of faithful, humble servants, but also of one who is prideful and loves to be first (Diotrephes). As followers of Christ, we are called to welcome one another, walk with each other, and work together as the gospel is proclaimed.

## Structure:

- I. Greeting to Gaius (vv. 1-4)
- II. Serving faithfully and giving generously (vv. 5-8)
- III. An example of arrogance (vv. 9-10)
- IV. An example of faithfulness (vv. 11-12)
- V. Final personal greetings (vv. 13-15)



## Engage

1. In the opening verse of 3 John, John says, “To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth.” How does the truth fuel our love toward others? How can we articulate our affections towards our brothers and sisters in the faith?
2. Why is John so joyful in Gaius’s faithfulness? What is the source of your joy?
3. How can you invest in others so you might see their spiritual fruit and find joy in them? Who has God placed in your life for you to invest in as a spiritual child?
4. How do you show the love of Christ to strangers (verse 5)? Why is it more difficult to love people we don’t know?
5. How can you work to support faithful ministers of the gospel? Are you aware of the missions effort at SSBC which supports 25 missionary units? (*To learn more about giving, praying, or supporting our missionaries, email Pastor Steve at [steve@southshorebaptist.com](mailto:steve@southshorebaptist.com)*)
6. Why is pride such a danger in the Christian life (verse 9)? How can you work to combat pride in your life and ministry?
7. Which of these two people do you identify with (vv. 9-12)? Which provides the most needed corrective for your life?
8. How can those who aren’t pastors imitate John’s pastoral heart from verse 11?
9. Why is reputation important for the Christian (v. 12)? What are some dangers of becoming too concerned with reputation?
10. Why is being physically present with other believers important to John (vv. 13-14)? How might this desire translate to the church in the age of Zoom?