

The Fellowship of Truth

3 John 1-4

Exploring the Background

- **Hospitality** – support and provision for those in traveling ministry
- **3 Main Characters** (Gaius, Diotrephes, Demetrius)
- **Theme** - ministry-service committed to both truth and love
- **Outline**
 - Vs 1-8 *Commending* Gaius the godly church member
 - Vs 9-10 *Condemning* Diotrephes the arrogant leader
 - Vs 11-15 *Recommending* Demetrius the devoted / faithful minister

Unpacking the Greeting

I. John the elder of Love vs 1

1. And apostle and elder (Acts 11:30; Acts 15; 1 Tim 3:1-7)
2. John was formerly ambitious and zealous - but lacked depth and balance as a younger man (Matt 20:20-28; Luke 9:51-54)

II. Gaius the Recipient beloved vs 2-4

Three Questions in light of Gaius' outstanding example:

1. Is my soul healthy and stable? Vs 2
2. Do others testify of my walk with Christ? Vs 3
3. Am I walking in the truth? Vs 4

Matt 5:14-16

Titus 2:10

“...walking in truth...” – lifestyle

“...no greater joy...” 1 Thes 2:17-3:10

Conclusion

- The power of Gaius' ministry impact was the truth sheathed in love!
- We must live the truth, love the truth, love the one to whom the truth points, and walk in truth!