

See the introduction to 2<sup>nd</sup> John for isogological notes.

While 2<sup>nd</sup> John is written to a congregation, 3<sup>rd</sup> John is written to a person. Two men, Gaius (the recipient, vs. 1) and Diotrephes (vs 9) are apparently in conflict, and the conflict is based in false teaching, and so has spread to become a disruption in the congregation. A third man, Demetrius, is also named (vs. 12).

### Read 3 John

**Verse 1** – On “the Elder” see 2<sup>nd</sup> John 1.

Gaius is a very common name. It is impossible to know which Gaius is the recipient of 3<sup>rd</sup> John. See Acts 19:29, Acts 20:4, Rom. 16:23, 1 Co. 1:14. Many commentators hold that the Gaius of 3<sup>rd</sup> John can not be the same man as the Gaius mentioned in these other verses.

1. In what is John’s love for Gaius rooted?

**Verse 2** – Gaius has apparently been host to missionaries sent by St. John. St. John knows Gaius’ physical and spiritual state.

**Verse 3** – Here is the report of the brothers regarding Gaius. Compare this report to verse 1.

**Verse 4** –

2. What is the source of John’s greatest joy?

3. Why? (see 2<sup>nd</sup> John 1-4, 1 John 1:5-7)

4. How does St. John refer to the members of the congregation to which Gaius belongs? (see 1 John 5:21)

**Verse 5** -

5. Here St. John writes about the support the congregation has given to the missionaries. How does St. John describe the support they have provided to the missionaries?

**Verse 6** – Here we have the specific report.

6. How does St. John describe their actions?
7. What is to happen next? How is the church to equip the missionaries?

**Verse 7** –

8. What does it mean to say “for the sake of the Name they went out?” (read Acts 4:8-12)
9. What is the context of the comment St. John makes that “they went out, taking nothing from the pagans”?

**Verse 8** –

10. What should we do for such men? How is it that Zion is doing this?
11. What is the purpose of the hospitality?

**Verse 9** – The church to which St. John wrote may be the “chosen lady” of 2<sup>nd</sup> John.

12. What is Diotrephes’ sin? How would you say this in your own words? (see 1 John 2:16)
13. What is the result of Diotrephes’ sin?

**Verse 10** –

- 14 – What is the manifestation of Diotrephes’ sin? (see also 2 Corinthians 12:20).
- 15 – See 2 John 10-11. What is Diotrephes saying by acting in this way?

**Verse 11 –**

16 – What behavior is Gaius to model? See 1 John 2:29

17 – What two categories of men does St. John describe? What are the outward fruits by which they are known? (See Matthew 7:15-20)

**Verse 12 –**

18 – What type of man is Demetrius? What does it mean “To Demetrius testimony has been given by all and by the truth itself;”?

19 – A third testimony is given of Demetrius – by whom?

20 – Why would Gaius know that the testimony of St. John is true?

**Verses 13-14a**

21 - What is St. John’s hope? (see also Romans 1:11-13)

**Verse 14b**

22 - “Peace to you” is not simply something St. John wishes – it is a blessing that he imparts with these words. How does each Sunday sermon start?

23 – Notice the nature of the relationships expressed at the close of the Epistle. How would you describe them?