

Questions

1. Gaius walked in the truth, in such an apparent way, that it could be testified to. (v.3) Do you? Consider again the question, "If you were on trial for being a Christian would there be enough evidence to convict you?"
2. Based on the previous, where do you need to seek repentance and the Lord's strength for change?
3. How has this passage (and sermon) challenged your view on biblical hospitality?
4. Are there steps you can take to be make your hospitality more others-focused, Christ-exalting, and gospel-focused?
5. What are ways you can become a fellow worker in the truth with missionaries?
6. Are there scriptures or biblical doctrines that you struggle to welcome in your heart as authoritatively from God?



A Sermon Series on 2-3 John

Hospitality

You Ought to Receive Them 3 John

Stuart McCray, Associate Pastor
August 27, 2023

In 3 John we see 3 examples of walking in the truth, so we would not imitate evil but good.

2 and 3 John were written roughly into the same situation. It's possible they're even follow-ups to 1 John. But where 2 John was written to a church and its members, 3 John was written to a man named Gaius. In 2 John the warning was to not show hospitality to "deceivers" (false teachers). Whereas in 3 John the problem is not showing hospitality to missionaries sent by the Apostle John. So, like 2 John, we could sum up 3 John with the word, hospitality.

DO NOT IMITATE EVIL, BUT GOOD

There is just one main command in this letter, and it is found in verse 11, "Beloved, *do not imitate evil but imitate good.*"

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

TWO COMMENDABLE EXAMPLES TO IMITATE (vv.1-8, 12)

The first commendable example is _____. John speaks of him in verses 1-8.

Gaius' fidelity to the truth (v.3) was his love for the brothers (v.6), tangibly expressed in his hospitality (v.5).

The other commendable example is _____. John speaks of him in verse 12.

3 Reasons in verses 7-8 to show hospitality to and send missionaries on their way in a manner worthy of God.

1.

2.

3.

As Gaius supported John's sent missionaries, he himself became a fellow worker for the truth. Two implications for us now.

First, there are not *apostolically* sent missionaries today since there are no more apostles. That said, there are sent missionaries who are faithful to the truth gospel, as taught by the apostles. And we ought to support them.

Second, we may not be able to travel to foreign lands as a missionary, but when we support those who do with our prayer, our finances, and our encouragement, indeed, maybe our hospitality, we become fellow workers for the truth with them.

Grace Bible's framework for missions engagement is, "Mobilize, Give, Pray, Go, and Welcome."
(More on that at, gbclorton.com/globaloutreach)

Biblical hospitality is not entertainment, it's a form of discipleship. It's others-focused, Christ-exalting, gospel-centered discipleship.

ONE CONDEMNABLE EXAMPLE TO NOT IMITATE (vv.9-10)

There is one condemnable example of *not* walking in the truth,

_____. John speaks of him in verses 9-10,

Two massive implications in Diotrephes' actions.

1. By not welcoming John's sent missionaries, Diotrephes put at jeopardy the _____.

2. By not welcoming the apostle's teaching and authority, Diotrephes was not welcoming the teaching and authority of the _____.