

Cearing Up for Greater Effectiveness
Small Books with Big Messages
III John - The Balance of Christian Unity

Philemon – Model the Power of Forgiveness

II John – Value the Truth

II John 7-11 -

Confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an anti christ. Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

III John - The Balance of Christian Unity

Three approaches to working with others:

Gaius – The Beauty of Working Together

A. Founded on a relationship characterized by both truth and love

v. 1 – *to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth*

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v. 1 – *whom I love in truth*

v. 3 – *brethren came and testified to your truth*

v. 3 – *that is, how you are walking in truth*

v. 4 – *to hear of my children walking in truth*

v. 6 – *they have testified to your love before the church*

Ephesians 4: 15 - but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ

B. Dependant on a prospering soul

C. Requires a commitment to act on truth

D. Especially with those who are unknown or different

v. 5 – *especially when they are strangers...*

E. Valuing the privilege of being a fellow worker for the truth

v. 8 – *so that we may be fellow workers with the truth.*

Psalm 133:1 - Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Ephesians 4:1-3 - I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

II. Diotrephes – The Scandal of Wrongful Separation

A. Rooted in rebellion against God-given authority

v. 9 – *I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes...does not accept what we say.*

B. Often motivated by proud self-promotion

v. 9 – *loves to be first among them*

3 John 9 - ...but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them...

Colossians 1:18 – And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

C. Divisions must be addressed

3 John 10 - Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, praying 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.

Proverbs 6:16-19 – There are six things which the Lord hates... one who sows discord among brethren.

III. Demetrius – The Hope of Achieving Balance in this Area

v. 12 – *has received a good testimony from everyone...*