**Title: In a Manner Worthy of God**

**Text: 3 John**

**CONNECT: August 31, 2025**

**Connect to One Another:**

* For this week’s Mission Moment, we will present the two Cuba mission opportunities coming up in 2026. Pray for these trips, as well as for those needs in your Connect group.
* Why must every true church be engaged in missions? Read Matthew 28:18–20. Pastor Tim shared a quote from Andrew Fuller about holding the rope as others go down into the darkness. How does this demonstrate the relationship between a local church and its mission partners?

**Connect to the WORD:** **Read 3 John**

*Churches walk in the truth and work for the truth when they give generous support to those who likewise walk in the truth and work for the truth.*

1. **The Good Example of Gaius.** Churches should follow Gaius’ good example in his *character* (*walking* in the truth) and his *care* for missionaries (*working* for the truth).

* Gaius’ *character* (*walking* in the truth). Walking in the truth means maintaining these three components:
  1. **Doctrinal**—receive the orthodox doctrine of Christ as true; receive the apostolic testimony as authoritative. What happens to missions when a church doesn’t maintain sound doctrine?
  2. **Relational**—love the brethren; specifically, showing hospitality to missionaries. What does it reveal about a church when it does not do this?
  3. **Moral**—abide by the commandments of the apostolic teaching. How does immorality and ungodliness in the church affect missions?
* Gaius’ *care* for the missionaries (*working* for the truth):
  + *Who* should churches support? Qualified missionaries who go out for the name of Christ and are approved by the church of Christ. How must we determine this?
  + *How* should churches support qualified missionaries? Faithfully, hospitably, lovingly, worthily. Discuss how we support our missionaries in these ways, and how we can improve.
  + *Why* churches should support qualified missionaries?
    - Because it is the faithful thing to do. How is it an act of faith?
    - Because they have sacrificed greatly in order to go. What have they sacrificed? What is their promised reward, and where does it come from (Mk 10:29–30)?
    - Because God commands it.
    - Because it is how we become fellow workers in the truth. How can we experience the joy of working with our mission partners?

1. **The Evil Example of Diotrephes.** Pastor Tim pointed out that Diotrephes’ evil example demonstrates three characteristics that prevent churches from sending out missionaries in a manner worthy of God. Discuss why these are so detrimental to missions.

* He forgot that the church—and its budget—belongs to God.
* He forgot that the truth was committed to the apostles.
* He forgot that the governance of the church is granted to the church.

**CONNECT to Walk It Out:**

* What can YOU do to be a “rope holder” for our missionaries?
* What can your Connect group do to be a better “rope holder” for our missionaries?

**Meditate on these verses this week:**

3 John