In a Manner Worthy of God

1. 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. In other words, we must commit to imitating the good example of Gaius, and abominating the evil example of Diotrephes.

1. **The Good Example of Gaius**

Gaius’ good example pertains to 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 demands three components:
  + Doctrinal—receive the orthodox doctrine of Christ as true; receive the apostolic testimony as authoritative.
  + Relational—love the brethren; specifically, showing hospitality to missionaries.
  + Moral—abide by the commandments of the apostolic teaching.
* 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 should churches support qualified missionaries? Faithfully, hospitably, lovingly, worthily.
  + Why should churches support qualified missionaries?
    - Because it is the faithful thing to do.
    - Because they have sacrificed greatly in order to go.
    - Because God commands it.
    - Because it is how we become fellow workers in the truth.

1. **The Evil Example of Diotrephes**

Diotrephes’ evil example demonstrates three characteristics that prevent churches from sending out missionaries in a manner worthy of God.

* 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.