

The Letters of John – 3 John

“Support and Oppose” – April 18th, 2021



Introduction

After Jesus rose from the dead, He issued the great commission, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:19-20). God, in His wisdom, calls us (the church) to share the good news with others and helps us do so. 3 John, shows us what to support and avoid in order to do what God calls us to.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Support Gospel work since God accomplishes the Great Commission thru His church
- II. Avoid selfishness that opposes the work of Christ

Read & Discuss

1) [3 John 1-8](#)

Gaius was a faithful believer who was ‘walking in the truth.’ He was faithful in hospitality – opening up his home and life, sharing what he had with these gospel workers in order to help advance the gospel. What does it mean for a church to send them off in a manner worthy of God (v6)? What are ways you can be involved in going, sending, and supporting gospel work to the nations? How can something like hospitality actually be part of Great Commission work?

Additional Reading: Titus 3:13, Acts 4:12

*Check out [Missions: How the Church Goes Global](#) to read more about ways that churches can work together to advance the gospel.

2) [3 John 9-15](#)

In contrast to Gaius, Diotrephes was opposing gospel work in his selfishness. When it comes to application we can consider how this might look on several levels. In one sense, he opposed gospel work by refusing to acknowledge the authority of the spiritual leaders (see v9) God set up in the church. His desire to be first got in the way of the mission and led to gossip and speaking ‘wicked nonsense.’ What are ways we can both support/encourage the leaders God put in place in the church (Hebrews 3:17) and hold them accountable to God’s word (Acts 17:11)?

On a more general level, Diotrephes' desire to 'put himself first' (v9) was a selfishness that left him closed handed with his time, money, possessions and home. Such self-centeredness is worldly in the sense that it seeks to make this world our home rather than using and giving those things knowing that Christ is coming again and our citizenship is in heaven. Take a prayerful assessment of your schedule, what you own (or hope to own), and your heart attitude to these things. Are there ways you are putting yourself before the needs of others? Are there ways you could better use those things God has given (time, money, possessions, home, abilities, life, etc.) to share Christ with those who haven't heard? Are there ways that those good gifts are actually a distraction from taking part in eternal work God calls us to be a part of?

Additional Reading: Luke 14:15-24, Philippians 2:1-11

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to John 6:1-21 "The King in Charge"
--