

A LOOK AT THE BOOK 3 JOHN

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AUTHOR AND DATE

Although the letter itself identifies neither author nor date, tradition attributes the book to the apostle John. The grammatical style supports that conclusion.

The description “the elder” indicates that he was an old man.

A date around A.D. 90 is usually suggested.

BACKGROUND

John has just received word of Gaius' hospitality from a group of brethren who traveled through the area.

The same brethren reconfirmed what John himself had experienced regarding Diotrephes' refusal to accept others.

PURPOSE AND THEME

John decided to write to Gaius to congratulate him for his hospitality and to encourage him to continue his assistance to the brethren.

He may also have hoped that Gaius might try to help Diotrephes or the church to correct the problem.

His message complements 1 and 2 John.

All three deal with true fellowship.

1 John demonstrates that true fellowship is based on common interests.

Fellowship with God and His people is for those who are like Him.

God is holy.

To enjoy fellowship with God, we must be holy.

God is love.

To enjoy fellowship with God, we must love others.

God (Jesus) is life.

To enjoy fellowship with God, we must have life.

2 and 3 John teach that fellowship is based on love and truth.

2 John emphasizes the role of truth.

True fellowship *excludes those who do not walk in the truth.*

3 John emphasizes love.

True fellowship *includes all those who do walk in truth.*

We should love all those who walk in the truth.

We ought to demonstrate love and hospitality to brethren who need assistance as they travel.

3 JOHN

LOVING THOSE WHO WALK IN TRUTH

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Initial Greeting 1-2	Commendation of Gaius 3-8	Condemnation of Diotrephes 9-11	Recommendation of Demetrius 12	Final Greeting 13-15
Author and Recipient 1	The Beloved Host	The One who Loves to Be First	A Person of Integrity	Desire to visit them 13-14
	Cause for rejoicing 3-4	The cause 9	Testimony of the brethren 12a	
Desire for good health and prosperity 2	Commendation for hospitality 5	The result of his works 10	Testimony of the truth 12b	Personal greetings 15
	Testimony concerning hospitality 6a	The warning 11	Testimony of John 12c	
	Exhortation to continue hospitality 6b			
	Reason for hospitality 7-8			