

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James.

3 John

Greeting to Gaius from the Elder

[\(2 John 1:1-3\)](#)

1The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

John called himself “the Elder” not so much due to his position as a disciple but more due to his age. He at this time was the eldest and I think the only living disciple of the original 12.

Gaius was a member of a local fellowship which is believed to be in Asia not far from Ephesus where John lived after leaving Judea. Gaius is apparently a convert and even though his name was common in Roman provinces he is believed not one of the other 5 Gaius mentioned in Acts.

Gaius is being recognized by John for his acts of love toward fellow believers that John had sent on missionary journeys.

2Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

3For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest

in the truth. 4I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

There can be vast differences within the Christian community of people who speak of Truth, but then do not walk in Truth. The Truth most desired by God and the Truth that should be evident in every Believers Life is Love;

1 Corinthians 13: 1Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity (LOVE), I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. (change and emphasis mine)

Gaius' Example of Hospitality

5Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

The idea is that Gaius treated known believers and believers who were strangers with great Love and respect and aided in their missionary journey.

6Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

Again, we find the word “charity” which is better interpreted according to many Bible Scholars as “love”.

John is remarking on Gaius' Love proved not by word alone but by deed, as he cared for these on a journey for God.

7Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

These Missionaries abandoned their own possessions and livelihood to carry out a mission for Christ Jesus. These were Gentile Believers who relied on the Love of other Believers to help them in their mission and personal needs.

8We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

Believers who help those called to the mission field are then “fellowhelpers” in that mission and promoting the Truth to the World.

Diotrephes and Demetrius

9I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

Not a lot is known of Diotrephes other than he was a self-appointed leader of the fellowship that Gaius was with. Apparently even after receiving a letter from John about these intended visiting missionaries rejected these missionaries in some obnoxious manner. But Gaius did that what was right in the sight of God and welcomed them.

10Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive

the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth *them* out of the church.

John was the disciple of Love but when faced with false Christianity, false teaching or self-aggrandizing supposed believers, John did not mince words. He has spoken boldly as to telling Gaius and others in that fellowship that they should “casteth them out of the church.” The “them” is meant as Diotrefes and others like him.

11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God. 12 Demetrius hath good report of all *men*, and of the truth itself: yea, and we *also* bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

As to this “Demetrius” little is known but as one commentator put it, his name is recorded in history forever. We do not know exactly what he did to earn this commendation for the last surviving disciple (original 12) but it was of such significance that John sought to enter his name in the annals of Christian history. I would very much like to meet this man someday.

Conclusion

13 I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee:

We know Christians were constantly under attack by both the Romans and the Jews, so perhaps the cancel culture of today

was alive and well then as well. Perhaps for that reason John preferred not to put in writing certain things. The reason is not given, but the idea sounds all too familiar.

14But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace *be* to thee. *Our* friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.

It is this verse that gives many scholars the idea that Gaius lived in Asia not far from where John was. In John's later life his ability to travel far was limited so many scholars believe Gaius live not far from John who lived in Ephesus at this time.

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