

The Book of III John The Pastor's Friends

III John 1:6-8

6 Which 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:

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

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

Author: Apostle John

Date Written: 90-100 AD

Purpose: Define to God's people the kind of friends a pastor has.

Main Theme: God's Man needs friends!

Key Verse: III John 1:8 We therefore ought to **receive such**, that we might be **fellowhelpers** to the truth.

Key words: fellowhelpers

Number of Chapters: 1

Number of Verses: 14

I. The Pastor's Friend #1 – A Dependable Friend (III John 1:1-8)

A. Walks in the Truth (Bible) (III John 1:1-4)

1 The elder unto the wellbeloved(worthy of love; favorite) Gaius(lord or leader), whom I love in the truth.

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

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

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

B. Faithful to the Truth (III John 1:5)

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

C. Charity(God's Love) in the Truth (III John 1:6-8)

6 Which 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:

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

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

II. The Pastor's Friend #2 – A Defective friend (III John 1:9-11)

A. Loves Himself (III John 1:9)

9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes(**nourished** by love), who loveth to have the preeminence(desire to be **first**) among them, receiveth us not.

B. Harasses God's people (III John 1:10-11)

10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious(**harassing**) words: and not content therewith,

1. **Cuts out** the brethren (III John 1:10b)
neither doth he himself receive the brethren,

2. **Criticizes** those that do receive the brethren (III John 1:10c)
and forbiddeth them that would,

3. **Chases** people out of the church (III John 1:10d-11)
and casteth *them* out of the church.

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.

III. The Pastor's Friend #3 – a Distant Friend (III John 1:12)

A. Has a good report (III John 1:12a)

12 Demetrius (belonging to Ceres – goddess of **agriculture**) hath good report of all *men*,

B. True to the Truth(The Bible) (III John 1:12b)

and of the truth itself: yea, and we *also* bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

IV. The Pastor's Desire (III John 1:13-14)

A. A Desire to see the people (III John 1:13-14a)

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

14 But I trust I shall shortly see thee,

B. A Desire to speak face to face (III John 1:14b)

and we shall speak face to face. Peace *be* to thee. *Our* friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.