

3 John: Love in Truth

I. Introduction.

- A. What is a character gift, quality, or trait required of an elder or any mature Christian...starts with an "H"?
- B. Is it loving to call out (tell the truth about) a mutual enemy to a friend?
- C. Is it loving to call out a leader unrepentantly sinning in the church?

II. Scripture.

A. **3 John 1-14.**

1. **1:1—"The elder unto the well-beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth."**
2. **1:2-4—"Beloved, 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."**
3. **1:5-8—"Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; 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: ⁷Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. ⁸We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellow-helpers to the truth."**
4. **1:9-10—"I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. 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."**
5. **1:1-12—"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. ¹²Demetrius 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**."*

6. **1:13-14**—"13*I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee: 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.*"

B. Loving, true, good, hospitable, and welcoming Gaius/Demetrius vs hating, fake, evil, and inhospitable/unwelcoming Diotrephes.



III. Application.

A. What was John's sincere "**love in the truth**" (**1:4**)?

B. What was Diotrephes' love not in truth (**1:9**)?

C. Why?

D. What is your love? Why?

E. How can we be in the truth?

1. " _____ *in the truth*" (**1:1**).
2. " _____ *of the truth*" (**1:3**).
3. " _____ *in the truth*" (**1:3**).
4. " _____ *in truth*" (**1:4**).
5. " _____ *of the truth*" (**1:8**).
6. " _____ *...of the truth*" (**1:12**).
7. "*Our* _____ *is true*" (**1:12**).

F. Should a Christian every be snobby? Why?

G. Why is welcoming and being hospitable in the church so important?

H. How can you be more welcoming, hospitable, and even greeting more folks (even in a huge church)?

I. Will you commit to be more welcoming/hospitable in our church and LifeGroup?