

Generosity & Drama in the Church

Background

- A. 3 John is a letter of introduction
- B. The letters of John were written to a network of house churches

Gaius Brings Great Joy (3 Jn. 1-4)

- A. John's prayer for Gaius (vv. 1-2)
 - 1. A dear friend, not a superior
 - 2. Loving in truth means demonstrating one's love in concrete acts
 - 3. Not proof for the prosperity gospel
- B. To John & the traveling Christian Workers (vv. 3, 6a)
- C. Walking in the truth (vv. 3-4)
 - 1. Living out the truth
 - 2. Gaius' generosity & hospitality

Gaius Becoming a Co-Worker with the Truth Through His Generosity (3 Jn. 5-8)

- A. Being generous is an act of faithfulness (v. 5)
- B. Encouragement to continue serving the traveling Christian workers (v. 6b-7)
- C. Supporting Christian workers means we're coworkers with the truth (v. 8)

Diotrephes Brings Drama into the Church (3 Jn. 9-11)

- A. What's behind the dispute?
 - 1. The main possibilities: theological, personal & church authority
 - 2. A powerful man with a character flaw
 - 3. Diotrephes using power to control
- B. The details of Diotrephes' poor behavior
 - 1. He loves to be first (v. 9a)
 - 2. He does not receive John & the traveling Christian workers (v. 9b, 10b)
 - 3. He slanders John & the traveling Christian workers with malicious words (v. 10a)
 - 4. He stops believers from being generous & expels them from the church if they do so (v. 10c)
 - 5. He does evil in doing all this (v. 11a)

Demetrius, a Traveling Christian Worker, Arrives at Gaius' Church (3 Jn. 12)

Final Words (3 Jn. 13-15)