

**3<sup>rd</sup> John**  
Christians Are Called Into Service of the King

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**What Is 3rd John About?**

1<sup>st</sup> John = Our fellowship with God  
2<sup>nd</sup> John = Forsaking fellowship with heretics  
3<sup>rd</sup> John = Serving the fellowship of believers

**The Three Characters In 3<sup>rd</sup> John**

1. Gaius: Walking in truth – engaged in service
2. Diotrephes: Arrogant – forsaking service
3. Demetrius: Walking in truth – bearer of letter

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**John's Salutation**

3 John 1 The Elder, To the beloved Gaius,  
whom I love in truth:

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### Gaius Is Walking In The Truth

3 John 2-4 Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers. For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth. I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

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### Oral Roberts Misapplies 3 John 2

“They talked excitedly about the verse’s implications. Did it mean they could have a ‘new car,’ ‘a new house,’ a ‘brand-new ministry?’ In later years, Evelyn looked back on that morning as the point of embarkation: ‘I really believe that that very morning was the beginning of this worldwide ministry that he has had, because it opened up his thinking’” (David Harrell Jr., *Oral Roberts: An American Life*, pg. 66).

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### Gaius Commended For His Hospitality

3 John 5-8 Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers; and they have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. **Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers for the truth.**

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**Diotrephes Puts Himself First, Not Christ**

3 John 9-10 I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire to do so and puts them out of the church.

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**John Exhorts Believers To Good Deeds**

3 John 11-12 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God. Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone and from the truth itself; and we add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true.

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**John's Farewell Greeting**

3 John 13-15 I had many things to write to you, but I am not willing to write them to you with pen and ink; but I hope to see you shortly, and we will speak face to face. Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

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### Application

- 1. Believers in Christ have the privilege and duty to show hospitality and work for the spread of the gospel.
- 2. We must always guard against putting ourselves first.

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### 1. We Must Be Hospitable

Romans 12:12-13 ... (be) rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

Hebrews 13:2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

1 Peter 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

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### 1. We Must Support The Gospel

Romans 10:14-15a How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent?

1 Corinthians 16:16 ... you also be in subjection to such men and to everyone who helps in the work and labors.

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**2. We Must Always Guard Against Pride**

3 John 9 ...Diotrephes loves to be first...  
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Colossians 1:18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.  
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**2. We Must Always Guard Against Pride**

Proverbs 16:18-19 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling. It is better to be humble in spirit with the lowly than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Luke 13:30 And behold, some are last will be first and some are first who will be last.

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