

*Continue Working for the Truth*

## Overview

This week, Pastor Solomon continued our series "Workers for the Truth" from 3 John. In this short but very personal letter, we are encouraged to continue working for the truth as we see the contrast between good and bad examples of men in the church. In the example of Gaius, the recipient of this letter, we see that abiding in truth brings true joy to ourselves and others. In Demetrius, we see a man of good reputation, willing to go forth for the Gospel. These positive examples are contrasted with Diotrephes, whose love for himself and rejection of authority negatively influenced the church.

As a church, we desire to be a compelling community grounded in the truth. We can only be this kind of community by abiding in the truth of the Gospel and walking in love for each other.

## Outline: 3 Examples:

1. Gaius (v1-8)
  - a. Walking in truth produces joy (v1-4)
    - i. In Yourself: *1 Peter 1:8-9, Psalm 1:1-2*
    - ii. In Others
  - b. Loving for the sake of the Gospel (v5-8): *John 13:35, Galatians 6:10*
2. Diotrephes (v9-10)
  - a. Loves to put himself first
  - b. Toxic church influence
3. Demetrius (12)
  - a. A good reputation: *Proverbs 22:1*
  - b. Going for the sake of the Gospel

## Discussion Questions

1. Gaius showed genuine hospitality to strangers, and his upholding of Biblical truth brought great joy to John.
  - a. Can you share an example of a Christian in your life who fits this description? What kind of joy do they bring you?
  - b. What does it mean to "walk in truth"?
2. John finds true joy in his friend Gaius but is displeased and has to call out Diotrephes by name for his rejection of authority and negative behavior towards missionaries. In verse 11, John commands Gaius to not imitate evil.
  - a. How do we, as a church, ensure that we are imitating good in relation to church leadership and authority?
3. Loving for the sake of the Gospel and going for the sake of the Gospel are two positive examples in this passage.
  - a. What practical steps can you take this week to love the church?
    - *Pastor Saolomon mentioned Community Groups – do you belong to one?*
  - b. What are steps you can take to support our missionaries?
4. Was there anything else that stood out in the sermon this week?