

Fellow Workers for the Truth

3 John

1. The Occasion for the Epistle
 - a. John is writing to commend Gaius for hosting travelling Christian teachers. (v1-7)
 - b. John is also writing to condemn Diotrephes for not welcoming the brothers. (v9-11)
 - c. John continues to encourage his readers to stand for the truth. (v3-4, 12-15)
2. The Implications of the Epistle
 - a. The church has a responsibility to support those preaching the truth. (v8)
 - i. We encourage “for the sake of the Name” (v7)
 - ii. Support is found in a variety of ways: writing (v1, 9, 13), praying (v2), fellowship (v14), hosting (v5-6), warning (v9-10), endorsing (v12), preaching (v7)
 - b. The church has a responsibility to expose those who hinder the preaching of the truth. (v10)
 - i. Error manifests in doctrine *and* practice. (v10)
 - ii. Believers must remember the true battle and fight onward together. (v11)
3. The Application of the Epistle
 - a. If you are not a fellow worker for the truth, you are working for evil - there is no neutrality!
 - b. As a Christian, consider yourself a vital part of God’s redemptive mission in this world through Christ and “support people like these” in various ways.
 - i. Your ministry is not unimportant if it helps further the truth
 - ii. Do not be as Diotrephes and refuse or belittle the efforts of others in the church.
 - iii. Do not grow complacent: see your “fellow working” as a spiritual discipline that must mature in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. Love, encourage, and pray for those who “have gone out for the sake of the Name!”