

SHORT & SWEET

Letters To The Early Church



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JUNE 8, 2025
THE MARKS OF A MEMBER



SERMON NOTES & QUOTES

3 John Author: John the apostle

3 John Recipient: Gaius - clearly a very close friend of John and partner in the gospel.

Purpose - This letter was probably sent in order to ask Gaius to extend hospitality to Demetrius has probably been sent with the letter - he's likely standing outside of Gaius's door as Gaius reads this letter.

Significance of Hospitality

- Hospitality gave the person an equal standing in the community
- Affirmation of their character and (in a Christian context) their message.
- This is why, in 2nd John, the challenge is to withhold the hand of Christian fellowship from those who were bringing the teaching that Jesus was not fully human.
- So, Gaius, being a man who walks in the truth - would be cautious about welcoming anyone into his home and, by necessity, into his church.
 - So, John sends this letter to affirm his spiritual walk, encourage his previous ministry to other traveling teachers, warn against acting like Diotrephes, and encourage him to welcome Demetrius.

Four Marks of a Healthy Church Member

1. A Healthy Church Member Walks in Truth (vv. 1-4)

“Walking in the truth” - One's life is being lived out consistently with the truth of the Gospel.

“Your theology comes out your fingertips and whatever comes out your fingertips IS your theology.”

- Doug Wilson

Walking in truth means constantly asking God, “Where am I out of alignment?”

- Maybe you say you trust God's provision—but you're driven by fear and consumed by greed.
- Maybe you say you believe God forgives—but you hold on to bitterness and gossip.
- Maybe you say people matter to God—but you treat them like roadblocks to your agenda.

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2. A Healthy Church Member Supports the Mission (vv. 5-8)

3. A Healthy Church Member Rejects Pride and Division (vv. 9-10)

- Pride
- Ignoring church leadership
- Gossip & Slander
- Withholding Christian hospitality

4. A Healthy Church Member Has a Good Reputation (vv. 11-12)

- He had a good testimony from others
- He had a good testimony from the truth itself
- He had a good testimony from John and the church.

JUNE MEMORY VERSE

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. -Hebrews 13:8