

Q: (v.13) Paul would rather talk face to face. It can be good to write, email, phone, text, or use social media to communicate with others. Why is face to face communication still the most effective, especially when dealing with very important items to discuss?

PRAY: Lord forgive me of my sins. Reveal anything in my life that is hindering my walk with You and my fellowship with other believers. Help me to be a humble servant leader, using my influence to point others to Your love and truth, not to just doing things my preferred way. Help me to help provide encouragement and tangible support to other Christ-centered missions and churches that you place in my path. Give me Your discernment and wisdom to know who to support and who not to support. Help me not to imitate any evil, but help me to imitate what is good, for Your glory and honor. In Jesus' name, Amen!



Harvest Growing Deeper

Evangelical Free Church

*A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church
(for personal and/or small group study)*

Week of February 21, 2021

3 John 1:1-15

John wrote this “postcard” to Gaius, a godly and well respected man in the local church. The church was facing some issues with a self-ish “church boss” named Diotrephes. John warned against him and would soon speak to him face to face. But John also complimented Gaius and Demetrius on their faithfulness to God in their words and actions. They walked in God’s truth and love. May we be led daily by the Holy Spirit to follow their lead.

Q: (v.3) other believers testified to Gaius’ character. What did they say?

Q: How would people testify to your character?

Q: (v.4) John finds “no greater joy than to see my children walking in the truth.” It’s great to see our kids succeed and received awards in school, sports, work, etc. But it is also important to keep all this “success” in perspective.

Do you find greater joy in your kids achieving success from the world’s perspective, or do you find more joy seeing your children are walking / growing spiritually in the Lord?

Q: (v.5-8) In John's day, it was common for Christians to invite travelling Biblical teachers to stay in their homes. These missionaries depended on assistance from fellow believers. The book of 2nd John warned against hosting deceptive and false teachers who rejected the Biblical Jesus. How were they to know the difference between those who taught truth and those who taught error? ____

Q: Define Biblical hospitality.

Q: In what ways do you demonstrate hospitality to fellow Christian workers? How do we become "fellow workers for the truth" when we support Christian missions (through our prayers, encouragement, financial support, hospitality when we see them)?

Q: (vv.9-10) How does John describe Diotrephes and his actions?

Q: He's like a selfish "church boss." Have you known anyone who has acted like an ungodly church boss (they abuse their influence or authority to encourage others to do things their way, even if they contradict Scripture)? _____

Q: How does John deal with him? How would you have dealt with someone like that?

Q: Why do we too often insist on having our way instead of God's way, and why can it be so difficult to hear and obey the Truth?

Q:(vv.11-12) What are some practical ways to "imitate what is good?"

Q: Paul wrote in 1 Cor 11:1 to "imitate me as I imitate Christ." It is good to look up to others to imitate (we all need "spiritual heroes of the faith"). But we also need to keep in perspective that all humans are still flawed. How can we admire and imitate other Christians who follow Christ, yet not put them on some "spiritual pedestal" and perhaps develop unrealistic expectations of them?

Q: How does Paul describe Demetrius? How do he and Gaius contrast with the character and actions of Diotrephes?
