

THIRD JOHN STUDY

CHAPTER 1:1-14

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Jesus Loves His Church”

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

3 John 1:4

I have no greater joy
than to hear that my children walk in truth.

TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Faithfulness, Fellowship, Church

INTRODUCTION:

The Reading of the Text

vv. 1-14

3 John 1:1-14

THE ELDER, To the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth: 2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. 3 For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. 5 Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, 6 who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well, 7 because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. 8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth. 9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. 10 Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with

malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church. 11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God. 12 Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true. 13 I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink; 14 but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face. Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

The Summation Sentence of the Text

“Jesus Loves His Church”

Like anyone else, she's not perfect. She is a collection of people, Jewish and gentile, that spans over two millenniums of time. The church

1 Timothy 3:15

...I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

THE CHURCH

And even though she has often been confused and soiled by denominational differences, she remains, and sometimes in great numbers and sometimes in few, she is the church that Jesus gave His life for and He loves her.

I can only imagine that Jesus looks at the church with perfect eyes of love. Though she be flawed, he can't see those flaws. Though she be at times unfaithful, he is faithful still and never changes his view of her. She is his and he will perform all that he has promised her.

1 Peter 4:8

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

That Being the Case – We Agree with John

I John 4:17

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

“Jesus Loves His Church”

1.) *Loves influence on life*

vv. 1-8

THE ELDER, To the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth: **2** Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. **3** For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. **4** I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. **5** Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, **6** who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well **7** because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. **8** We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.

Loves influence on life...

a.) *Begins with one person*

v. 1

THE ELDER,
To the beloved **Gaius**, whom I love in truth

THE ELDER,
>>> Presoboterouse <<<
senior in age, senior in calling, and senior in authority

beloved Gaius
“Gaius’ Godly Life”
made a great difference in the long run

Just One Man

Noah / Moses / David / Daniel / Stephen / Paul / Peter / The Philippian Jailer / The Widow at the Temple...

a woman

Matthew 26:6-13

And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, 7 **a woman** came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. 8 But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste 9 "For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor." 10 But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. 11 "For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. 12 "For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. 13 "Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."

Loves influence on life...

b.) *Desires the best for others*

v. 2

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health,
just as your soul prospers

Yes, The Obvious is...

I John 3:17

But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

I Should Desire for You, the Best
(what blesses you and is meaningful to you)

That's What Paul Did When He Prayed

Colossians 1:9-12

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Loves influence on life...

c.) Rejoices in doing the truth

vv. 3-4

For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. **4** I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

His reason for rejoicing was in Gaius because of what he did in Jesus' name.

Verse 3

For I rejoiced greatly **when brethren came and testified**
of the truth that is in you !!!

1 Peter 4:9-10

Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Rejoices in doing the truth

Verse 4

I have no greater joy
than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Listen to The Parental
Heart of John

A Real Parent

really has no greater sense of accomplishment or joy then when their own children decide to do the truth...

To Walk in the Truth is to Do it

Pastor Chuck Smith

Signed this verse on my blanket

Pastor Romaine

Signed nearly the same thing

2.) *Loves power over life*

vv. 9-10

I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. **10** Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church.

Loves power over life

a.) *By enduring difficulties*

v. 9

Verse 9

I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.

“Dio”

apparently attacked and resisted John and the Apostles
by words and arguments.

Preeminence grk 5383 philoproteuo (fil-op-rote-yoo'-o);
to be fond of being first in line, the first to receive.
the first of all. too ambitious of heart

“Gaius’ Godly Character Set a Standard”
by which others were judged by

Comparing

Diotrephes

to Gaius was an indictment

In Time, God will exalt the just and put down the unjust

Matthew 7:21-23

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

APPARENTLY, HELL

Will be packed with people who were in the ministry. People who did greater things than I have ever done, people who sounded perfect in doctrine, but in private lived a spiritually lazy and loose life

Their Actions Betrayed Their Speech

The Church (you & I) Individually

1 Timothy 4:12

but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love,
in spirit, in faith, in purity.

The Church (Calvary Chapel) Corporately

Romans 1:8

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

Diotrephes

Was a man of selfish ambition

Loves power over life

b.) By judging what is wrong

v. 10a

Verse 10a

Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does,
prating against us with malicious words

**I will call to mind his deeds
which he does**

*

prating grk 5396 phluareo (floo-ar-eh'-o);

a babbler. One who runs on mischievously with words. To trifle. to be garrulous !!!

A **garrulous** person is someone who is **verbose**, someone who is **loquacious**.

Church Discipline is all but Extinct

in the western world.

(I'm not talking about legalism or abusive power)

Ephesians 5:11

have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness,
but rather expose them.

James 3:11

Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?

Proverbs 6:16-19

These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.

Proverbs 6:14

He is always thinking up new schemes to swindle people. He stirs up trouble everywhere.

Loves power over life

c.) *By resisting division*

v.10b

Verse 10b

And not content with that, **he himself does not receive the brethren**, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church.

**he himself does not receive
the brethren**

There are people who think it's their calling in life to upset the body of Christ. They will often be promoters of either aberrant doctrine or they will take good doctrine and they themselves will become aberrant about it.

Hyper-Calvinist's – Hyper-Arminian
Hyper-Denominationalist

Hyper-Futurist

“we're post tribulationist so we can't fellowship with you or
“we're pre tribulationist so we can't fellowship with you...”

Diotrephes
was a man of selfish action

Proverbs 22:10

Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; yes,
strife and reproach will cease.

Proverbs 20:3

It is honorable for a man to stop striving, since any
fool can start a quarrel.

Romans 16:17

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the
doctrine which ye have learned;
and avoid them.

The Truth is...
“Jesus Loves His Church”

3.) Love's determination of life

vv. 11-14

Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who
does evil has not seen God. **12** Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth
itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true. **13** I had many things
to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink; **14** but I hope to see you shortly,
and we shall speak face to face. Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

“Gaius' Generous Treatment”
of servants and ministers glorified God

Love's determination of life

a.) Will expose to us our motives

vv.11-12

Verse 11-12

Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God. **12** Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true.

~ If we really love God,
then we will love those who make up the church

~ Whatever we might do for God
is only worth anything if we are doing it from
the motive of love

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Jesus is Best Reason Why

1 Corinthians 13:1-10

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not **(Jesus)** love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. **2** And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not **(Jesus)** love, I am nothing. **3** And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not **(Jesus)** love, it profits me nothing. **4 (Jesus)** Love suffers long and is kind; **(Jesus)** love does not envy; **(Jesus)** love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; **5** does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; **6** does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **8 (Jesus)** Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part. **10** But when that which is perfect has come **(Jesus)**, then that which is in part will be done away.

Love's determination of life

b.) Will reveal to us our nature

vv.13-14

Verse 13-14a

13 I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink; **14** but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face

??? Are You Tender Hearted Toward the Brethren???

Psalms 122:1

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD."

Loves determination of life

c.) Will tell of our true desires

v.14b

Verse 14b

Peace to you.

Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

Fellowship

Psalms 27:4

4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.

Psalms 84:2

My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Psalms 84:10

10 Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

always remember this grave warning

"My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, Instructors in the word, knowing that those who do teach the Bible shall receive a stricter judgment in the end when they stand before God."

- James 3:1