

# Short Letters, Big Issues

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## 3 John

# Philemon

[15] For perhaps he was for this reason separated from you for a while, that you would have him back forever, [16] no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

# 2 John

**[9] Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.**

# The Story of 3 John



➤ John compliments Gaius.  
(v. 1-8)

# 3 John

[1] The elder to the beloved Gaius,  
whom I love in truth.

# 3 John

[2] Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.

# 3 John

**[3] For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth.**

# 3 John

[4] I have no greater joy than this,  
to hear of my children walking in  
the truth.



# 3 John

**[5] Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers;**

# 3 John

**[6] and they have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God.**

# 3 John

**[7] For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles.**

# 3 John

**[8] Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth.**

# The Story of 3 John



➤ John criticizes Diotrophes.  
(v. 9-11)

# 3 John

[9] I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.

# 3 John

**[10] For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this,**

# 3 John

he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire to do so and puts them out of the church.



# 3 John

**[11] Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.**

# The Story of 3 John



➤ John commends Demetrius.  
(v. 12)

# 3 John

**[12] Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself; and we add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true.**

# 3 John

**[13] I had many things to write to you, but I am not willing to write them to you with pen and ink;**

**[14] but I hope to see you shortly, and we will speak face to face.**

# 3 John

[15] Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

# Impressions from 3 John



1) The importance of hospitality.

# 1 Peter 4:9

[8] Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

[9] Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

# Hebrews 13:2

[1] Let love of the brethren continue. [2] Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.



# Romans 12:13

[12] rejoicing in hope, persevering  
in tribulation, devoted to prayer,  
[13] contributing to the needs of  
the saints, practicing hospitality.

# 1 Timothy 3:2

[2] An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

# 1 Timothy 5:10

[10] having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work.

# Titus 1:8

[7] For the overseer must be ...

[8] but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,

# Impressions from 3 John



2) We can become fellow workers with those we can support in their efforts.

# 3 John

**[5] Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers;**

# 3 John

**[6] and they have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God.**

# 3 John

**[7] For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles.**



# 3 John

**[8] Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth.**

# Impressions from 3 John



3) We must avoid the desire  
to be first.

# 3 John

[9] I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.

# Matthew 20:25-28

[25] But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them.

# Matthew 20:25-28

[26] “It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,

[27] and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;

# Matthew 20:25-28

**[28] just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”**

# John 13:1-17

[3] Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, [4] got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself.

# John 13:1-17

[5] Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.



# John 13:1-17

**[12] So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?”**

# John 13:1-17

**[13] “You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am.**

**[14] “If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.**

# John 13:1-17

[15] “For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. [16] “Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.

# A Final Encouragement



# 3 John

**[11] Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.**

# A Final Encouragement



- Our actions are just as important as our beliefs – what have mine been?