

The Letter to Gaius

III John

Who was Gaius?

- If he is the same man, he:
 - Was Baptized of Paul – *1 Cor. 1:14*
 - Lived in Corinth – *Rom. 16:23, Acts 19:29*
 - Was originally from Derbe – *Acts 20:4*

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III John

What was his character?

- He was loved by John in the truth, v.1**
- John implies that Gaius's soul prospered greatly, v.2**
- Other brethren testified of the truth that was in him, v.3**
- He faithfully assisted others in the work, v.5**

The Letter to Gaius

III John – Two contrasting characters

The character of Diotrephes: v.9-10

- Loves the preeminence, v.9
- Would not receive apostolic authority, v.9
- His deeds would be remembered v.10
 - *Malicious words*
 - *Refusing to help the work*
- Nothing good is said of him

The Letter to Gaius

III John – Two contrasting characters

The character of Demetrius: v.12

- **Had a good testimony from all, v.12**
 - **Even the apostles and the truth itself could testify of this good testimony**

This one verse was all that was needed to describe the character of Demetrius

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III John – Two contrasting characters

What message is being conveyed? v.11

- Do not imitate evil, but good
 - Diotrephes was evil, did not have truth
 - Demetrius was walking in truth
- He that does good is from God; he that does evil has not seen God
 - Diotrephes had not seen God
 - Demetrius did good, and all could say so

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III John – Application

What lessons are here for us?

- **Do not imitate evil, but what is good**
 - **Must train ourselves to identify**
 - **Do not imitate evil we see in the world: language, conduct (movies, friends)**
 - **Do not be drawn into the sins of other brethren (Gal. 6:1)**
- **Can others say that we walk in truth?**
- **Is our soul prospering?**