

**Monday**  
**III John**

Just as in II John, the author is not specifically, but it is traditionally believed that John also wrote III John. Unlike II John which was written to a lady and her children, III John was written to Gaius, a loving member of a local church.

1. Read III John – How does the author identify himself in the first verse?
2. The title “elder” signifies more than just being older in age. In fact it doesn’t necessarily mean that John is older. What does it mean?
3. What adjective did John use to describe Gaius?
4. What does that reveal about John’s attitude toward him?
5. The love mentioned in verse 1 is agape love. What does that mean?
6. John said that he loved Gaius in the truth. This teaches us an important truth. True love must be based on the truth of God’s Word. What does Amos 3:3 have to say about that principle?
7. John started verse 2 with the word “beloved.” What do you think John was trying to get across to Gaius?
8. According to verse 2, above anything else what did John want for Gaius?
9. Gaius apparently had some sort of physical sickness or disease. In contrast to his physical health, what was very healthy?

John wanted his friend’s soul to prosper. What a good friend! Do you wish the same spiritual prosperity for your friends? What are you doing to help them prosper?

**Tuesday**  
**III John**

John took great care to establish the fact that he and Gaius are good friends. They care about each other and their spiritual well-being very deeply. Based on that preexisting relationship, John gave some timely encouragements and some necessary reminders and instructions.

1. Read III John – According to verse 3, what did John do after he heard something about Gaius?
2. How much did he do that?
3. John heard a good report about Gaius. Who brought that report?
4. According to that report, what was found to be in Gaius?
5. Not only did Gaius have a good knowledge of the truth, but what else is said about that truth?
6. Since John identified himself as the elder in verse 1, we understand that he had some sort of spiritual authority over Gaius. John rejoiced greatly when he heard not only that Gaius had a good understanding of the Bible, but that he was also living it. What does that reveal about the heart of people in spiritual authority?
7. What can you learn from that?
8. What spiritual authorities has God put in your life?
9. What specific things can you do to cause them to rejoice?

Spiritual authorities are deeply concerned about your spiritual well-being. Make their day and do what is right!

### Wednesday III John

John's example taught us an important lesson about the heart of a pastor. A good pastor is deeply concerned about the spiritual health of those God has put under him. John's letter continues to reveal more.

1. Read III John – Verse 3 tells us that John rejoiced greatly when he heard that Gaius knew and lived the truth. According to verse 4, what did John consider to be his greatest joy in ministry?
2. That statement excludes many things. Why do you think that would be his greatest joy above anything else that he could have seen?
3. For what did John compliment Gaius in verse 5?
4. Apparently, Gaius was a very hospitable person. He took good care of church members and those who were traveling through the area. According to verse 6, whom did the recipients of Gaius' hospitality tell?
5. What did they tell the church?
6. John gave him an encouragement to continue in his hospitality in the end of verse 6. He used the words "bring forward" to illustrate the effects of Gaius' ministry. What do those words show?
7. In what way was Gaius to continue in his hospitality?
8. If Gaius continued in his hospitality, what reassurance did John give to him?

It is always good to help brothers and sisters in Christ. Though we may lose something materially to help them, we gain so much more by help the cause of Christ!

### Thursday III John

Paul gave the same message as John in Galatians 6:10 when he wrote, "As we therefore have opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." That verse summarized Gaius' life, and John reassured him that what he was doing was a good thing. Then John gave the benefits of his actions.

1. Read III John – John spoke of the people who went out as missionaries. For whose sake did they go?
2. What does it mean that they went forth for the sake of Jesus' name?
3. These people went out for the benefit of Christ's name and to further His work. They were able to do their work without taking anything from a certain group of people. Who was it?
4. The Gentiles is speaking of unsaved people. Why is it so important to support God's work with provisions from His people?
5. In verse 8 John gave a command that we ought to receive those who have given their life to take the Gospel around the world. What does it mean to receive them?
6. What do we become when we do receive missionaries into our home and actively support their work?
7. In reality are we helpers of the missionaries or helpers of the saving truth of God's Word?

God's people ought to support God's work. It is not the responsibility of people to support rummage sales or bake sales to provide for the needs of the church and its missionaries. When you give, you become part of their work. Give!

**Friday**  
**III John**

Up to this point, John encouraged Gaius to continue in his support and hospitality. That encouragement continues, but for a different reason, one that you might not expect in a church. Unfortunately for Gaius, he needed the encouragement.

1. Read III John – Apparently, John had written an earlier to this church, but according to verse 9, who refused to accept it and read it publicly?
2. Diotrephes was the pastor of this church. What did John say that Diotrephes loved to have?
3. If he were able to return, according to verse 10, what was John going to do concerning Diotrephes' actions?
4. Diotrephes had a sharp tongue. How did John describe his speech toward them?
5. It wasn't enough for Diotrephes to speak maliciously against God's people. What else did he not do concerning traveling missionaries?
6. On top of not receiving them himself, what did he forbid others from doing?
7. If Diotrephes caught someone with a missionary in his house, what would he do?
8. No one expects to experience persecution in church, but that's exactly what was happening. Gaius was really in danger for being hospitable. His life wasn't in danger, but his church membership was. What do you think John's encouragement meant to him?

Who around you needs to be encouraged? Take some time today to be an encouragement to that person!

**Saturday**  
**III John**

To say the least, Gaius had a poor relationship with his pastor, Diotrephes. He was an uncaring, intolerant pastor. John's encouragement couldn't have come soon enough. Now in the closing verses, John gave some final instructions to help Gaius through his tough time.

1. Read III John – What word did John use to begin verse 11?
2. This is the fifth time he has mentioned the loving relationship between John and Gaius. Why do you think he mentioned it so many times?
3. When people are going through hard times, it is very important to reassure them that they are loved. Why is that reassurance so important?
4. What did John tell Gaius to do concerning good and evil?
5. People who habitually do good things are of Whom?
6. In contrast those who habitually do bad things have not what?
7. The life of saved people is characterized by doing good things. The life of unsaved people is characterized by doing evil things. Read Ephesians 2:10. What is God's design for saved people?
8. Back in III John, John gave an example of someone whose life was characterized by good works. Whom did he mention?
9. Was his life of good works well-known?

John told Gaius not to follow the bad example of Diotrephes, but to continue doing what is right. His life was to be characterized by good works. How would someone describe yours?

## **Sunday III John**

Gaius already had a good reputation of doing good works. He was known for his hospitality and generosity of giving to the Lord's work. His good works didn't come without opposition. John's words of encouragement were welcome and refreshing. Let's look at the conclusion to his letter.

1. Read III John – According to verse 13, did John have more to write than he did?
2. Why do you think he didn't?
3. In stead of writing a longer letter, what did John hope to do?
4. If John were able to come and see him, what would he and Gaius do?
5. In II John the fact-to-face conversation was for the purpose of confrontation. This face-to-face conversation was going to be for encouragement. Why was a face-to-face conversation for encouragement going to be so effective?
6. What did John wish for Gaius?
7. John mentioned that there were other friends who wanted to say "hello." How do you think that would give further encouragement to Gaius?
8. John gave instruction to greet the friends in that church. Specifically how did he say the greeting should be done?
9. Why is that kind of greeting so important?

The Christian life should be a personal one. Face-to-face conversations are always best! Knowing people's names and greeting them by name is also a great way to show them that they are important to you. Take time to know people!