

## Lesson 9: Extending Fellowship - (3rd John)

### **Background:**

John's final letter is an encouragement to share fellowship with those of like faith. In 1<sup>st</sup> John we learned how fellowship is gained and maintained. In 2<sup>nd</sup> John we are warned of the hazards from fellowshiping error. In 3<sup>rd</sup> John we are encouraged to show and share fellowship with all those who teach the doctrine of Christ. John makes clear it is not just a matter of supporting those with whom we have an intimate relationship, but also those who may be strangers that teach the truth. While God would that all men be saved, a Christian's fellowship is extended to those who love God's children, keep his commandments, and believe in his son.

- 1) Who is the audience of this letter? There appears to be multiple men mentioned in the New Testament (both in Acts and in Paul's writings) with this same name. Can you discuss them in order of their appearance in NT history?
  
- 2) We spoke last week about the things that bring joy to those with a pure heart. What does John mention in this letter that brought him joy? How was that "made manifest in Gaius?"
  
- 3) What do we learn about the Gaius in 3<sup>rd</sup> John, and what can we learn from him?
  
- 4) Why were the men who commended Gaius to John worthy of support?
  
- 5) Consider Vs. 8 – what results from our support of faithful gospel preachers and teachers?

- 6) How might we practically make use of what John teaches us in Vs. 8?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 7) Who does John mention in Vs. 9? What caused John to be concerned about him (Vs. 10)? Who does this bring to mind which Jesus confronted in his teaching? (See...Mt. 23:2-12; Lk 22:24-27).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 8) What role of God was Diotrephes attempting to take upon himself...was he successful?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 9) Who did John commend to Gaius and what was his encouragement regarding this one?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 10) Be prepared to discuss what John means when he says:
  - a. "Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God." What does he mean by saying the evil have not "seen God"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. "Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself." How does the truth give testimony?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 11) Who are the friends that John refers to in Vs. 15?

