

3 John

Introduction of 3 John & Greeting to Gaius (3 John 1:1-4)

Part 1: Introduction of 3 John

Where is 3 John in the Bible?

What is 3 John about?

Who wrote 3 John?

What is 3 John about?

3 John is about three _____: John, Gaius, Diotrephes, and Demetrius. It's about our connection with people: **in the _____**. The Christian life revolves around _____.

Who and where was Gaius?

When was 3 John written?

Part 2: Greeting to Gaius (3 John 1:1-4)

Read: Greeting to Gaius (1:1-4)

1 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.

Explain: Greeting to Gaius (1:1-4)

Are there any literary/structural observations?

Are there any repeated words?

_____/your (14), do/does (10), I (10), beloved/_____/loves (7), not (6), _____ (6), us/we (6), brethren (3), church (3), God (3), good (3), receive (3), testified/testimony (3), write/wrote (3)

What do the words mean?

1 The Elder [*presbyteros*; elder(-est), _____],

To the beloved [*agapetos*; (dearly, well) beloved, dear] **Gaius** [lord], **whom I love** [*agapao*; present active indicative; (be-)love(-ed)] **in truth** [*aletheia*; true, truth, verity]:

2 Beloved [*agapetos*], **I pray** [present middle or passive deponent indicative; to wish; by implication, to pray to God: pray, will, wish] **that you** [singular] **may prosper** [present passive or middle infinitive; to help on the road, i.e., (passively) succeed in reaching; figuratively, to succeed in business affairs: (have a) prosperous journey)] **in all things and be in health** [*hygiaino*; present active infinitive; to have sound health, i.e., be well (in body); figuratively, to be uncorrupt (true in doctrine):be in health, (be safe and) sound, (be) whole(-some)], **just as your soul** [*psyche*; breath, i.e., (by implication) spirit, abstractly or concretely (the animal sentient principle only; heart (-ily), life, mind, soul, us, you)] **prosper** [present passive indicative]. **[Stott: There is biblical warrant here for desiring the physical as well as the spiritual welfare of our Christian friends.¹ Guzik: What would we be like if our _____ health was in the same state as our souls?²** **3 For I rejoiced** [*chairō*; second aorist passive deponent indicative; to be "cheer"ful, i.e., calmly _____ or well-off; impersonally, especially as salutation (on meeting or parting), be well: farewell, be glad, God speed, greeting, hail, joy(-fully), rejoice] **greatly** [exceeding, great(-ly), sore, very (chiefest)] **when brethren** [*adelphos*; a brother (literally or figuratively) near or remote (much like G1): brother] **came** [present middle or passive deponent participle (i.e., _____ came);

¹ *The Letters of John*, John R. W. Stott (1988), page 227

² *The Enduring Word Bible Commentary*, David Guzik (2013)

to come or go (in a great variety of applications, literally and figuratively): accompany, appear, bring, come, enter, fall out, go, grow, pass, resort, be set] **and testified** [*martyreo*; present active participle (i.e., _____ testified); to be a witness, i.e., testify (literally or figuratively): charge, give (evidence), bear record, have (obtain, of) good (honest) report, be well reported of, testify, give (have) testimony, (be, bear, give, obtain) witness] **of the truth** [*aletheia*; true, truth, verity] **that is in you, just as you walk** [*peripateo*; present active indicative; to tread all around, i.e., walk at large (especially as proof of ability); figuratively, to live, deport oneself, follow (as a companion or votary): go, be occupied with, walk (about)] **in the truth** [*aletheia*; true, truth, verity]. [Henry: **The best evidence of our having the truth is our walking in the truth.**³ **4 I have** [*echo*; present active indicative; to hold (used in very various applications, literally or figuratively, direct or remote; such as possession; ability, continuity, relation, or condition): be (able, possessed with), accompany, begin to amend, can(-not), count, diseased, do eat, enjoy, fear, following, have, hold, keep, lack, go to law, lie, must needs, of necessity, need, next, recover, reign, rest, return, take for, tremble, uncircumcised, use] **no greater** [still larger (figuratively): greater] [*touton*; not translated here in the NKJV; of (from or concerning) these (persons or things): such, their, these (things), they, this sort, those] **joy** [cheerfulness, i.e., calm _____: gladness, joy(-ful, -fully, -fulness, -ous)] **than to hear** [*akouo*; present active indicative or subjunctive; to hear (in various senses): give (in the) audience (of), come (to the ears), (shall) hear(-er, -ken), be noised, be reported, understand] **that my children** [a child (as produced): child, daughter, son; Marshall: **“Children” is a word used especially by Paul to refer to his own converts (1 Corinthians 4:14; Galatians 4:19; Philippians 2:22); in the same way the implication here may be that the elder had led Gaius to faith in Jesus Christ, but he may simply be using this phrase to refer to people under his pastoral care, to whom he adopted a fatherly attitude.**⁴ **walk** [*peripateo*; present active participle (i.e., _____ walk); to tread all around, i.e., walk at large (especially as proof of ability); figuratively, to live, deport oneself, follow (as a companion or votary): go, be occupied with, walk (about)] **in truth** [*aletheia*; true, truth, verity]. [Stott: **Whoever ‘walks in the truth’ is an integrated believer in whom there is no dichotomy between profession and practice. On the contrary, there is in him an exact correspondence between creed and conduct.**⁵]

³ *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible*, Matthew Henry (1998), page 2,458

⁴ *The Epistles of John*, I. Howard Marshall (1978), page 84

⁵ *The Letters of John*, John R. W. Stott (1988), page 288

Apply (What is the point?)

1. Christians should love one another
2. Christians should pray for one another (for a healthy body and soul)
3. Christians should rejoice over one another

Personalize (What do we do with that?)

1. Love other believers
2. Pray for other believers
3. Rejoice over other believers

Next week: Gaius Commended for Generosity (1:5-8)

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.

Homework

1. Ask the Holy Spirit for help
2. Read next week's text (multiple times in multiple ways) (**3 John 1:5-8**)
3. Talk to someone about the text
4. Share ([fb.com/OurSundaySchool](https://www.facebook.com/OurSundaySchool)) insights and questions by Thursday
5. Invite a member or non-member

Extra Credit

Watch: The Bible Project Video on **3 John** ([youtube.com/watch?v=l3QkE6nKylM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3QkE6nKylM))

Resources

The Letters of John, John R. W. Stott (1988)

The Enduring Word Bible Commentary, David Guzik (2013)

Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible, Matthew Henry (1998)

The Epistles of John, I. Howard Marshall (1978)