

## Sermon: Support Those Who Work for the Truth.

Text: [III John 1:1-15 ESV](#)

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**Introduction:** I hope you don't think that this sermon is meant to be self-serving. I do, however, want to share with you what I think John's heart was regarding the three main characters of this shortest of letters in the NT. The three men we are looking at in their order of appearance in this epistle are: Gaius, Diotrephes, and Demetrius.

### I. Cast of \_\_\_\_\_ John Addressed

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

### II. Be Careful Who You \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Do Not Imitate \_\_\_\_\_ (People).

B. Do Imitate \_\_\_\_\_ (People).

C. The Church Is a Place  
for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Conclusion:** God wants us to prosper, but not so much in the way as one might imagine. It might be fine to be rich, but it is better to be rich toward God. [Psalm 133 ESV](#) 1 Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

## III John 1:1-15 ESV

### Greeting

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

2 Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. 3 For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

### Support and Opposition

5 Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, 6 who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. 7 For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. 8 Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

9 I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. 10 So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.

11 Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. 12 Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true.

### Final Greetings

13 I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink. 14 I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.

15 Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, each by name.