

Mission Support

3 John
David Feddes

Traveling preachers

- Traveling Jews and Christians stayed in homes, not bad inns.
- Letter of recommendation linked a traveler to a host family.
- Gaius hosted traveling preachers.
- 3 John recommends Demetrius to Gaius and his household.

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.

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.

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.

Key characters

- **John:** elder and apostle
- **Gaius:** mission partner
- **Diotrephes:** Mr. Me First
- **Demetrius:** missionary

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Greeting Gaius

- Love: open affection in truth
- Prayer: flourish in soul,
body, and all of life
- Praise: walking in the truth,
bringing joy to his mentor

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Mission support

- Continue faithful efforts; don't quit.
- Love and help strangers in mission.
- Support mission as God's cause.
- Admire workers' devotion to Christ.
- Don't count on the lost for support.
- Be glad partners with the truth.

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Diotrephes

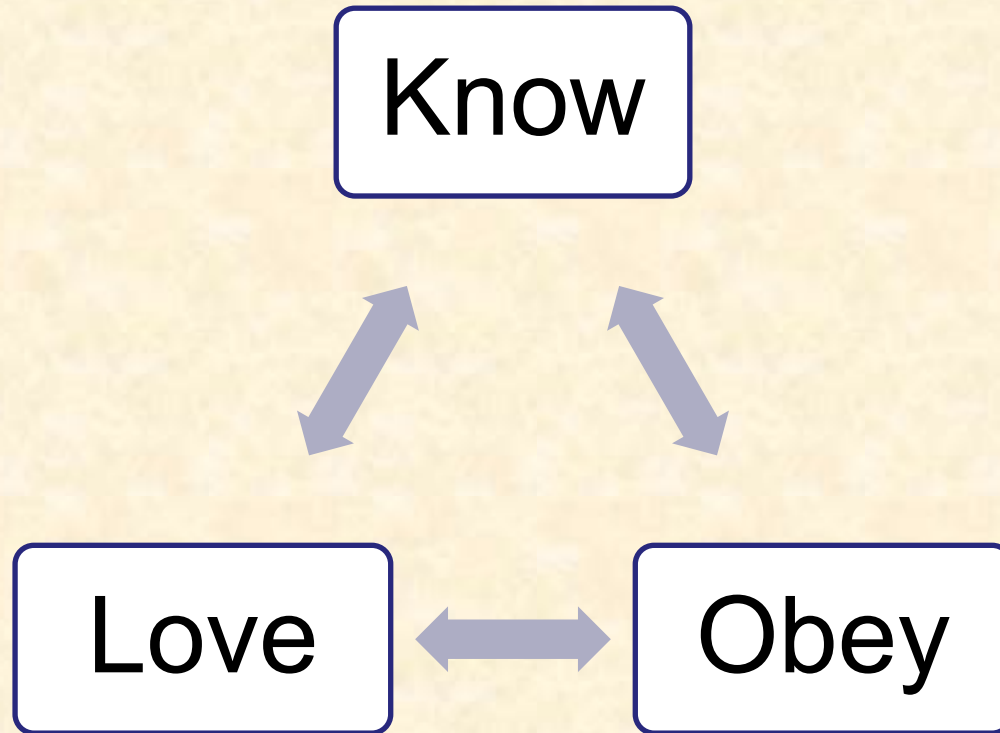
- Mr. Me First wants his way
- Rejects apostolic authority
- Bad-mouths godly leaders
- Shuns true missionaries
- Expels mission supporters
- Hurtles toward exposure

Good vs. evil

¹¹ Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.

- Are you with God doing good, or against God doing evil? If you don't support mission, you need mission!

Walk in truth



Demetrius

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. (v. 12)

- Highly recommended by godly people, God's truth, and godly elder.
- He doesn't write mail; he delivers it.

Keep it personal

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