

Purpose

To commend Gaius for his faithful service and to condemn Diotrephes for his church tyranny

Penman

John, the disciple of Jesus

Recipients

The letter is addressed to "the beloved Gaius," a commendable and much respected man in the early church.

Date Written

Approximately 90 AD
from Ephesus

Key People

John, Gaius, Diotrephes,
and Demetrius

Key Verse

"Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers."

3 John 1:5

An Overview (1 Chapter)

- Live by the Standards of the Gospel (1:1-12)
- John's Final Words (1:13-15)

Major Themes

- *A Good Name*: Whether we realize it or not and whether we like it or not, our name carries with it a set of characteristics and/or traits, good and bad. When our name is mentioned in a group, people conjure up their impressions of us, things we have said and done. Will people be more apt to listen or reject the Gospel based on our actions and attitudes? Our good or bad name cause either help or hinder the cause of Christ.
- *Supporting Ministries*: God has a purpose for every believer; He gifts them in some way to advance His kingdom. While some people may initiate and lead ministries, others are called to a support role and assist them by giving of their time, energy, and/or resources. Gaius is commended by John for demonstrating hospitality to the traveling ministers of his day.
- *Church Tyrants*: The church is not exempt from trouble-makers, dictators, or bullies. Prideful people, who must be the center of attention and who must control everyone around them, damage the effectiveness of the Gospel and hamstring a church's ability to minister to a community. It is vital to confront such people before they cause irreparable harm.