

**Transforming Daily**  
**“... walk in the truth ...”**  
*3 John v.3*

Third John is one of the shortest books of the Bible, only 14 verses. In it, John stays true to the themes found in the rest of his writings (Revelation notwithstanding), love and truth. John specifically addresses one in the church by the name of Gaius. Gaius is said to have been a popular name in Rome at the time. John's words of admonition and encouragement are for Gaius and the rest of the church to walk in love and truth. Apparently this very testimony toward the brethren by Gaius is what brings him to John's attention in the first place (v.3). However, as usual, where there is light darkness tries to overtake it, and where there is good evil tries to dominate it (vs.9-11). John's message is for Gaius and the whole community to trust the Lord and continue to walk in love and truth.

Gaius' church in the first century is no different than any other church throughout the centuries, present century included. There will always be those who are for the things of God, against the things of God, and those that don't care. Believe it or not the ones who are most disconcerting are the ones that don't care. At least you know where the ones who are against God stand, but the ones who don't care or cold of heart can be next to you in one instance and in your way in the next, or most of the time, not found anywhere (but they want to exercise their vote). What influences them is what they can get out of something or what is going to cost them the least. Controlling power is the only thing that gets their attention. If they have control, look out, if they don't have control, or influence over the one who does, you won't see them very often.

I have had my fare share of encounters with the “Diotrephes's” of the church. In one church that we served, a rift surfaced amidst the leadership. One of the loyal followers of one of the leaders in the rift took it upon himself to go house to house of the membership trying to enlist or intimidate the membership to follow after him and his choice of leader. Ultimately it backfired, but the damage it did was irreversible and long lived. But in the same breath, I have had more encounters with the “Demetrius's” of the church. Time and page would fail to contain the names of wonderful, faithful, giving, loving, hospitable, longsuffering, submissive, humble and contrite members of the churches we have served in over the past 30 years. On these members and memories I care to dwell.

Are you walking in truth and love? Are you guilty of being a Diotrephes? Is it said of you that you are like Demetrius? What is your relationship to your church? Are you for the things of God, against the things of God, or just don't care? Let me encourage you in the words of John to “walk in the truth.”