

Truth & Love vs. Pride & Error

3 John 1-15

1. Gaius: the essence of truth and love.

Like Gaius,

a. We must live spiritually.

3 John 2 | 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.

b. We must lead truthfully.

3 John 3-4 | 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.

c. We must labor faithfully.

3 John 5-6 | 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.

d. We must lend generously.

3 John 7-8 | 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.

2. Diotrephes: the epitome of pride & error.

Unlike Diotrephes,

a. We must resist prideful attitudes.

3 John 9 | ⁹ I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority.

b. We must reject presumptuous accusations.

3 John 10a | ¹⁰ So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us.

c. We must refrain from personal animosities.

3 John 10b | ^{10b} 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.

3. Demetrius: the example of truth and love.

Like Demetrius,

a. We must model a godly posture.

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

b. We must maintain a godly reputation.

3 John 12 | 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.