



RHCCC 1-3 John Devotional Series

3 John 1:1-15

¹The elder,

To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

²Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. ³It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. ⁴I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

⁵Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you.

⁶They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God. ⁷It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. ⁸We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth.

⁹I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us. ¹⁰So when I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, spreading malicious nonsense about us. Not satisfied with that, he even refuses to welcome other believers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.

¹¹Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God. ¹²Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone—and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.

¹³I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. ¹⁴I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.

¹⁵Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name.

Welcome to Love

Read

Read today's scripture humbly and without hurry. Ask God to meet you today through His word. Meditate on today's reading, reading it more than once. Pause as verses or words resonate with you, allowing the Spirit to speak to you.

While 3 John is only one chapter. There are multiple important themes: walking in truth (vv.3-4); love & hospitality (vv.5-8); disruption in the church (vv.9-12). Is there a theme that you feel particularly strongly about? Ask the Spirit to illuminate that area of your life as you continue to meditate on the passage.

Think

Re-read the passage again, this time out loud. The writer took great joy in his friend Gaius. Gaius was loving and walked in faithfulness to the truth. Is there a "Gaius" in your life? What can you say/do to recognize and encourage that person? Are you giving thanks and praying for that person's physical health and spiritual health as the writer had done for Gaius in verse 2?

In contrast, the writer also warned about Diotrephes, "who loves to be first" (sadly the wrong kind of love), and who is unwelcoming and even spreads malicious slander. Brace yourself...this is going to be a hard one to admit. Sadly, there is a Diotrephes in all of us. We all struggle with it. We are all equally guilty of the same - the sins of pridefulness and haughtiness.

Pray

Depending on what resonated with you, voice the emotions you have been feeling. Ask God to give you power to do what is good and not to imitate what is evil (v.11). Give thanks for all the saints as Paul did in 1 Thessalonians 1. Let the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, wash over you as you pray for his people.

Live

Take one thought or verse from the reading with you and ponder on it as you go through your daily routine. Act on God's leading throughout the week. Be open to the prompting of the Spirit. Humbly accept his lead as He takes you through doors of new spiritual opportunities: perhaps opportunities to speak truth to power; show love to those who most need it; practice hospitality; or share our Lord Jesus' gospel of peace.