

1st, 2nd & 3rd John

#10, to Gaius, III Jn

As mentioned in the heading of II John, III John is definitely written to a literal person. The person of course being, 1 Gaius, whom I love in the truth. Looking at some of John's references to truth:

John 8:32, So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, " If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the **truth**, and the **truth** will make you free." 33 They answered Him, " We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"

[1.] Jn 8:32-33, What promises did Christ make to those who continued to learn about His word?

John 14:6, Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the **truth**, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

[2.] Jn 14:6, What does truth have to do with salvation?

1 John 1:6, If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the **truth**; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the **truth** is not in us.

[3.] 1 John 1:6, What does truth have to do with fellowship with God?

1 John 2:21, I have not written to you because you do not know the **truth**, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the **truth**.

[4.] 1 John 2:21, Looking at the context of this verse, which "lie" is it talking about?

1 John 3:18, Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and **truth**. 19 We will know by this that we are of the **truth**, and will assure our heart before Him

[5.] 1 John 3:18, Two types of loves are contrasted in this verse. Jot down some examples of each kind.

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1 The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth.

2 Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers. 3 For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth. 4 I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

5 Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers; 6 and they have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. 7 For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. 8 Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth.

[6.] v:1, whom I love in truth, **What did John mean by this statement?**

[7.] v:2, just as your soul prospers, **While we live our lives in the flesh, the outward things, such as prosperity and good health have value. From the list below, choose what John was probably talking about.**

a) Soul prospering is the same as the flesh prospering.

b) Gaius had a deep abiding love in God's truth but lacked contentment.

c) Gaius' soul prospering meant big car, big house, big family and big bank account.

d) Gaius committed each moment of his life entirely to God's purpose for him.

[8.] v:4, my children walking in the truth **Whose children was John talking about?**

[9.] v:5, especially when they are strangers, **What might Gaius be on the alert for, when strangers came visiting?**

[10.] v:7, accepting nothing from the Gentiles, **Recall where this church might be located. In this context what would be wrong with Gentile help?**

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John starts v:9 with “I wrote something to the church”. Here “the church” would be one that John, Gaius, Diotrephes, and Demetrius would know about. It “seems” Gaius was not there at this time.

[11.] v:9-11, Considering John’s compliments to Gaius and that which has been written in v:9-11, Jot down some reasons why one can conclude that Gaius was away from “the church”?

9 I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. 10 For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire to do so and puts them out of the church.

11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.

[12.] v:9, loves to be first, These guys just don’t instantly appear! Describe their character from when they first arrived on the scene to when, over time, they are a powerful leader.

[13.] question [11.], What was the purpose of Paul’s instruction in I Tim 5:22?

[14.] v:10, This verse describes some of the things that John knows about Diotrephes. What were they?

[15.] v:11, has not seen God, So, is this John’s way of saying Diotrephes is a born again Christian or unsaved? (circle one)

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12 Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself; and we add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true.

13 I had many things to write to you, but I am not willing to write them to you with pen and ink; 14 but I hope to see you shortly, and we will speak face to face.

[16.] v:9-11, We don't know what happened to this guy. Just for fun though, if John came visiting, and Diotrephes tried to stand up to him, what did the congregation see happen?

[17.] v:12, a good testimony, John mentioned Demetrius received a good testimony from three sources. What were they?

[18.] question [17.], from the truth itself, From the four choices below, select the one that you feel is closest to the meaning of this phrase.

- a) At that time there was a person named truth that said this.
- b) Demetrius' life closely matched the truth of God's word.
- c) Since Pilot said that nobody really knows truth, this phrase doesn't mean a thing.
- d) Truth can only be found in what is current with society during the time one lives.

[19.] v:13, face to face, The close of the letter is almost identical with how John closed II John. How might John be helped by personally seeing and talking to Gaius?

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15 Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

[20.] v:15, friends greet you . Greet the friends, Considering John 15:13-15, choose, from below, who you feel John was referring to when he wrote this.

- a) Members of the body of Christ.
- b) Members of ones earthly family.
- c) Members of the same political party.
- d) Members of ones society.

NOTES