



One chapter wonders - 3 John

- Do we really care for the church, for fellow Christians?
- Why invest time & energy? How should we live as members of the church?

1. **Taking trouble because Christ took trouble for his church**

- John was a man who had stood at the foot of the cross.
- He was a man in a new relationship with Christ, and therefore in a relationship with Christ's people
- They were brothers in "the truth" (6 times in short letter)
- Not for recognition, but because of Jesus
- Difference between Christianity and religion – serve out of love, not to be loved/accepted.

2. **Taking trouble for the gospel**

a) **John – taking the trouble to care**

- Cares enough to communicate – v1
- Cares enough to pray – v2
- Cares enough to encourage – v3
- What about you?

b) **Gaius – taking the trouble to serve**

- Putting yourself out, simply because they are God's people v5
- Engaging in practical service for other Christians v6,8
- Such service is a partnership in the work of the gospel v8
- How practically are you investing yourself in other Christians?

c) **Demetrius – taking the trouble to live the gospel**

- A life that withstood inspection v12
- Not easy – takes a concentrated effort in obedience
- Are you a walking advertisement for Christianity?

d) **John – taking the trouble to confront error**

- Leaders do more than encourage and teach v10
- Motivated by love for Christ and his people
- Do you love enough to seek to turn a fellow Christian from the error of their ways?

3. **Making trouble for the gospel**

- Diotrephes - A power-hungry, haughty trouble-maker
- How can we make trouble for the gospel?

a) **By thinking that the church exists for us**

- Is the church here for me, or am I here for my fellow Christians?



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b) **By putting ourselves first over others**

- Diotrephes – “who loves to be first”
- Do we expect our opinion to matter more than others?

c) **By doing what pleases us**

- Diotrephes – “He refuses, he stops, he puts out”
- Not accepting the guidance and leadership of God's word/leaders

d) **By saying what pleases us**

- Diotrephes – “gossiping maliciously”
- Do we fall in love with our opinion, and want to share it?
- Do we forget that we don't know all the facts?
- ‘Malicious’ – saying words that can never do any good
- Do we think what our words will do to others, or to the situation?

- Where do you need to change - who do you need to be more like? John, Gaius, Demetrius?
- The encouragement is that Jesus transformed John from a ‘Diotrephes’ into the apostle of love.