

**Christ Community Covenant Church**  
**"Living Out the Truth in Love"**  
**3 John**  
**Pastor Curt Vogt - February 16, 2014**

Intro – Glad to be here, other comments

Read entire passage of 3 John

Impersonations (imitations)

\*Who do we or should we imitate?

Paul in 1 Cor. 11:1 says, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ."  
Consider that question as we look at 3 John

The book of 3 John

The "elder" = John the Apostle (this is widely accepted)

Personal letter

Comment on typical greeting/closing

Relates to 2 John – a letter to a church/congregation

\*Major themes of John books – Love and Truth (walking in the truth, walking in love)

See 1 John 4:7&8 – Let us *love* one another

3 John 4 – No greater joy for John when people walk in *truth*

Background on what's going on – the Gospel is being spread by itinerant missionaries/evangelists

They need support in their work – lodging, food, encouragement, etc

Compare 2 John to 3 John – itinerant teachers with "bad" doctrine should not be supported

The letter's recipient (Gaius) is doing good with this missionaries and John commends him

The 3 people mentioned in 3 John

Gaius – faithful to the truth; walking in the truth

Loving – hospitable (kind, compassionate)

Diotrephes – loves to be first

not hospitable

spreads nonsense (gossip)

(domineering)

Demetrius – not much known about

well-spoken of

Verse 11 – imitate what is good, not what is evil

\*We should imitate Gaius and Demetrius, not Diotrephes

Note - For us today we need to not get distracted with the historical/cultural particulars (being hospitable to itinerant missionaries) but understand the spiritual principal John is indicating: walk in the truth and live it out in love (and obedience).

Illustration video from current events – Russian cross country skier helped by Canadian coach.

We should imitate that guy....

Bottom Line: \*Imitate those who live out the truth in love – be like them, follow their example.