

3 John - A Problem in the Church

Some people have the idea that in its earliest years the people in the church all got along perfectly. Don't believe it! There were some nasty cases of jealousy and insubordination and quarreling even in church circles. In your Bible read the one-page letter called **Third John**. Its fifteen short verses give us a peak into one awkward situation. The five characters listed below are all mentioned in this letter. By reading between the lines you should be able to figure out how they fit into this story.

A – the Elder	B – Gaius	C – the Brothers	D – Diotrophes	E - Demetrius
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A certain church leader, called _____, was having trouble. He would send out a group of traveling missionaries, called _____, to make the rounds and preach from one church to another.

But in one of those churches was a scoundrel, named _____, who wouldn't cooperate. Whenever _____ came to his church, _____ would refuse to let them come in. If anyone else in that church tried to help the missionaries, _____ would kick them out. To make matters worse, _____ was even saying bad things about _____.

So to try to straighten things out, _____ wrote a letter to _____. He knew that _____ was a good man, someone who always helped _____ when they came to visit. In fact, _____ had told _____ about the warm welcome _____ had given them. The Elder wanted _____ to welcome another traveler, named _____, when he came. In fact, _____ was probably carrying this letter with him when he got to _____ house.

_____ wanted _____ to imitate good men like _____, not to cooperate with evil men like _____. That way God's truth would be followed and everyone would be joyful and happy.

1. Imagine that a letter like this had been sent to you. Name three things you would do to show that you "love the truth."

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

2. In your Bible color one key verse from this letter and list its reference here:

3. By the way, what does this letter have to say about Jesus?