

Questions

How is the truth of God's Word regularly shaping and influencing your life?

What is your level for other believers? (v.1) What characteristics of love help guide how you reached that conclusion? (cf. Ro 12:9-10; 1 Co 13:4-7; 1 Pe 4:8; 1 Jn 4:7-8, etc...)

How are you praying for brothers/sisters proclaiming the truth around the world? (v.2)

How does "walking in truth" build up the local church and its missionaries? (v.3-4)

Consider your current support and involvement in missions. How does this measure up to the challenge given to Gaius, "You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God" (v.5-8)?

What were Diotrophes' character problems? (v.9-10) Was he an acceptable leader for a church to have? Why or why not? (cf. Mt. 20:20-28, Php 2:5-11, 1 Ti 3:3, 1Pe 5:3.)

How does the warning of Diotrophes' evil behavior encourage you to continue the faithful work of hospitality? (v.9-10, 8)

What did Diotrophes' actions demonstrate about his spiritual state? What did Demetrius' actions demonstrate about his spiritual state? Explain how this relates to your own spiritual state. (v.11)

What does it mean to receive a good testimony from the truth itself? (v.12)

"Note, it is not that he bore witness to the truth, but that the truth bore witness to him. Demetrius was not the standard by which truth was tested. The truth was the standard by which he was tested; and having been so tested, he stood approved."

- From notes of an address on the Second and Third Epistles of John, by F. B. Hole.

Why do you think God might have delayed this face-to-face communication between John and these churches, when that is how John preferred to communicate? What benefits might they have had on his character, for the church, and for us today? (v.14)

When he says to "greet the friends by name," what does this indicate about the quality of Christian friendship? (v.15)