

# 3 John: The Marks Of A Christian

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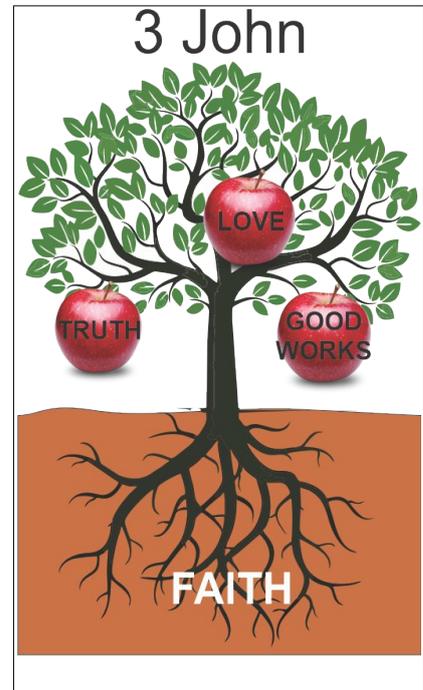
## 0. Introduction

### 0.1 Review: Love

- a. four types of love
  1. Agape: will (sacrificial; God loves despite us being unlovable,)
  2. Phileo: mind/friendship: in church brothers and sisters
  3. Eros: emotional
  4. Porneo: physical
- b. Place of Love
  1. all inherently good in their correct usage/place
  2. none are inherently evil
  3. but some are more easily corrupted by Satan...
    - e.g. porneo more than agape!

### 0.2 Structure of 3 John

1. Lets will read through together.
2. Vs1 Introduction/Salutation
3. Body (3x Dear friend → letter's structure)
  - i. vs2 Dear friend,
  - ii. vs5 Dear friend,
  - iii. vs11 Dear friend,
4. Vs 13-14 Closing



## 1. Salutation

- a. short and simple. I like this about John's writings. Quickly to the meat. not longwinded like some preachers...
- b. From: Jesus' disciple John.
  - i. Apostle of LOVE
  - ii. last written letter (that is extant) before he dies
- c. To: Gaius
  - i. not sure, but he could be at Ephesus.
  - ii. Paul mentioned a Gaius in Romans
    - "Gaius, mine host, and of the whole Church."
  - iii. We cannot say for certain.
2. Relationship
  - i. Which Greek word do you think John uses for LOVE? *αγαπη*
  - ii. these old men have a close longterm relationship due to christ.

### 1.2 The introduction to each section

1. English: Dear friend,
2. Chinese: qin-ai de, (The Chinese is a better translation.)
3. GREEK each section starts with a single word: agape!
4. (friend is a translation for phileo-love NOT agape)

## 2. Into The Body "The (3) Marks of the Christian"

### 2.1 The first mark of a "healthy" Christian...

1. Lets read the first paragraph --
2. What word is repeated 3x (at least in Greek, Chinese, KJV, except NIV)
3. TRUTH! Zhen-Li aletheia
4. John wishes the person's physical health is just like his spiritual health
5. (suitable for old men)
6. so we know he is a spiritually healthy.
7. vs 3 get to the first mark of a healthy faith: truth
  - i. heart fixed on truth (no falsehood, no deception, no incongruency)
  - ii. actions taken are based on truth
8. vs 4 when anyone's actions are based on truth
  - i. apostle is happy,
  - ii. → God is happy.
9. What about us?
  - i. Is our heart "one with the truth"?
  - ii. Are our actions based on the truth?
  - iii. Or do we try to hard the dark parts of our actions?
  - iv. Or worse, do we seek to deceive others by appearing to be better than we are?

### 2.2 vs 5 The second mark of a healthy Christian: LOVE

#### a. The Principle

1. demonstrated in how we treat those from whom we have nothing to gain.
2. vs 6 -- Which word for love is used here? Yes, agape
3. strangers, brothers and sisters : helping/hospitality to those from which we can gain nothing. these travelling preachers are putting forth God's word but cannot do something for us.
4. Love, but not just any of the 4 types but agape, is the 2nd mark for a healthy christian
5. What about us? Do we demonstrate agape love?

#### b. Vs 9-10 The Counter-Example: incorrect love

1. Diotrephes : vs9 .He also has love.(not in Chinese)
2. What Greek word do you think John uses for "love"?
3. phileo -- brotherly love, reciprocal love
4. But what is the object of Diotrephes' love? Is it a person?
5. No, it is a position! In other words, he loves himself.
6. Due to this incorrect love... his behaviour is the mirror-opposite of agape
  - i. does not welcome those who have higher position in the faith, e.g. John
  - ii. gossips against others to make himself look better
  - iii. refuses to show agape love to fellow believers
  - iv. stops those who want to show agape love to others.

#### c. What about us?

1. Are our lives characterized by the 2nd mark of a Christian? Agape love for those who cannot do anything for us.
2. OR are we like Diotrephes?
  - i. Loving our own position,
  - ii. jealous of those God is using seeing them as a threat to our position.

3. In Movie, Amadeus: Salieri an older composer, is depicted as jealous of Mozart's talent. He was a pious Christian, yet Mozart had the talent

## 2.3 vs 11-12 the third mark of a Christian:

### a. Principle (read Vs 11)

1. vs 11: echoes Psalm 34:4 "Turn from evil and do good;"
2. So clearly "Do Good, Turn from Evil."
3. GOOD WORKS

### b. Positive Example

1. Demetrius: (because of his good works...)
  - i. everyone speaks well of him (well known)
  - ii. his actions are based in truth
  - iii. We (the apostles) also think well of him
2. Demetrius: the name sounds familiar. In Ephesus? Is this the same Demetrius who led the silversmiths to attack Paul in Ephesus due his concerns about losing \$\$\$ from Diana cult? If it is one and the same, This is clearly an excellent example of a man who as a result of saving FAITH has turned from evil and now does good!

## 3. Closing Paragraph

1. vs 13-14a can see the phileo love of John for Gaius -- this longing to meet face to face
2. vs 14b Chinese translate: Pengyou, English translate: friend
3. Can you guess which Greek word for love is used twice here?
4. phileo! → brotherly love
5. "The ones that are with me that I phileo send their greeting. Please give my greeting to all the ones that I phileo. Please do it individually by name."

## 4. Conclusion

1. Our relationship with Jesus is rooted in FAITH.
  2. Our relationship to brothers and sisters in Christ is due the same to FAITH.
  3. This is the root/foundation.
- b. But as a result of this faith our lives must be marked by:
1. TRUTH
  2. LOVE
  3. GOOD WORKS
- c. What about us?
1. Do we live open and authentic lives? Are our lives rooted in TRUTH?
  2. Do we show 'agape' love?
    - i. We need to show phileo, eros, and porneo where these are appropriate.
    - ii. But any decent person shows these characteristics.
    - iii. The 2nd mark of a Christian is AGAPE
    - iv. Agape: Love for those who are "no use to us." Those we may never see again.
  3. Do we demonstrate GOOD WORKS in our daily lives?
- d. These are the 3 external marks that reflect the inward reality of FAITH.
- e. As an aside: 3 John is an excellently formatted letter/paper and I hope that students, e.g. Justin, will use it as an inspiration for their own papers!

## 5. Supporting Scripture 3 John

<p>1 作長老的寫信給親愛的該猶， 1 就是我誠心所愛的。(=agape)</p>	<p>The elder to Gaius the <b>beloved</b>, whom I <b>love</b> in truth.</p>
<p>2 親愛的兄弟啊，(=agape) 2 我願你 2 凡事興盛，身體健壯， 2 如你的靈魂興盛一樣。 3 有弟兄來證明 3 你心里存的真理， 3 正如你按真理而行， 3 我就甚喜樂。 4 我聽見 4 我的兒女們按真理而行， 4 我的喜樂就沒有比這個大的。</p>	<p><b>Beloved</b>, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be healthy, even as your soul prospers. For I rejoiced greatly, when brothers came and testified about your <b>truth</b>, even as you walk in <b>truth</b>. I have no greater joy than this, to hear about my children walking in <b>truth</b>.</p>
<p>5 親愛的弟兄啊，(=agape) 5 凡你向作客旅之弟兄所行的， 5 都是忠心的； 6 他們在教會面前證明了你的愛。(=agape) 6 你若配得過神，幫助他們往前行， 6 這就好了。 7 因他們是為主的名(原文作那)出外， 7 對於外邦人一無所取。 8 所以我們應該接待這樣的人， 8 叫我們與他們一同為真理作工。</p>	<p><b>Beloved</b>, you do a faithful work in whatever you accomplish for those who are brothers and strangers. They have testified about your love before the assembly. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a way worthy of God, because for the sake of the Name they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.</p>
<p>9 我曾略略的寫信給教會。 9 但那在教會中好為首的(=愛:phileo) 9 丟特腓不接待我們。 10 所以我若去， 10 必要題說他所行的事。 10 就是他惡言妄論我們。 10 還不以此為足， 10 他自己不接待弟兄， 10 有人願意接待， 10 他也禁止， 10 并且將接待弟兄的人趕出教會。</p>	<p>I wrote to the assembly, but Diotrephes, who <b>loves</b> to be first among them, doesn't accept what we say. Therefore if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words. Not content with this, neither does he himself receive the brothers, and those who would, he forbids and throws out of the assembly.</p>
<p>11 親愛的兄弟啊，(=agape) 11 不要效法惡， 11 只要效法善。 11 行善的屬乎神。 11 行惡的未曾見過神。 12 低米丟行善 12 有眾人給他作見證。 12 又有真理給他作見證。 12 就是我們也給他作見證。 12 你也知道我們的見證是真的。</p>	<p><b>Beloved</b>, don't imitate that which is evil, but that which is <b>good</b>. He who does <b>good</b> is of God. He who does evil hasn't seen God. Demetrius has the <b>testimony</b> of all, and of the truth itself; yes, we also <b>testify</b>, and you know that our <b>testimony</b> is true.</p>
<p>13 我原有許多事要寫給你， 13 卻不願意用筆墨寫給你。 14 但盼望快快的見你， 14 我們就當面談論。 15 願你平安。 15 眾位朋友都問你安。(=愛:phileo) 15 請你替我按着姓名問眾位朋友安。 (=愛:phileo)</p>	<p>I had many things to write to you, but I am unwilling to write to you with ink and pen; but I hope to see you soon, and we will speak face to face. Peace be to you. The <b>friends</b> greet you. Greet the <b>friends</b> by name.</p>

