



SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING

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Thursday, 7/14/2022

Scripture: 3 John

TITLE: 3 John – You Are Exposed

Contrasts help us to know what is good or bad or preferred or undesirable. We see it all the time. In elections, you often have two candidates. One you like and one you don't. You see the two and contrast the differences. The same happens with books, movies, food, businesses, or people. You look at your options, contrast the differences, and make the best choice.

Well, if you need a reminder that humility and generosity are better than pride and greed, then you should study the book of 3 John.

The letter of 3 John is the third letter written by John from Ephesus written to Gaius and his local church. Paul wrote this in approximately 90 A.D. To see the connection between 1, 2, and 3 John, in 1 John, John writes about fellowship with God. 2 John is about rejecting fellowship with false teachers. In 3 John, John encourages fellowship with Christian brothers and sisters.

The letter is to contrast two people: Gaius, who is faithful in his walk with Christ. He's hospitable and supportive of missionaries who visit the church. He is a partner in the Gospel. And then there is Diotrephes. He is the polar opposite of Gaius. He is proud and selfish. He has refused a letter that John wrote for the church. He has overtaken the church and rejected the apostle's authority. So what's the main thing from 3 John? It's that your works expose your relationship with God.

3 John 1:11 says, “Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.” This is probably the most concise view of good and evil in the Bible. As Christians, we are ambassadors of Christ. We represent Him to the world. We are a magnifying glass that brings God into focus. Our behavior does just that. So, what do your actions show?

In 3 John, John contrasts the difference between Gaius and Diotrephes. Gaius displays goodness through his hospitality and generous actions.

3 John 1:5,8: “Dear friend, you are acting faithfully in whatever you do for the brothers and sisters, especially when they are strangers.... Therefore, we ought to support such people so that we can be coworkers with the truth.”

So here's my challenge for you today: Be generous and hospitable. We live in a time and place where we must try to find ways to be hospitable. But you can do so by inviting someone over for coffee, a meal, or encouragement. You can take someone out and do the same.

You can be generous in many meaningful and impactful ways. Regardless, what you do today will expose your heart. So ask God for a heart like His and begin to show that God-driven hospitality and generosity today.