

Sermon Notes 6/14/2026

Walking in the Truth

How do we walk in the truth?
¿Cómo caminamos en la verdad?

1. Let's support teachers of _____.
Apoyemos a los maestros de la _____.

3 John 1:8 (3 Juan 1:8)

Matthew 28:19-20 (Mateo 28:19-20)

1 Corinthians 9:13-14 (1 Corintios 9:13-14)

2. Let's serve others with _____.
Sirvamos a los demás con _____.

3 John 1:9 (3 Juan 1:9)

Philippians 2:3-4 (Filipenses 2:3-4)

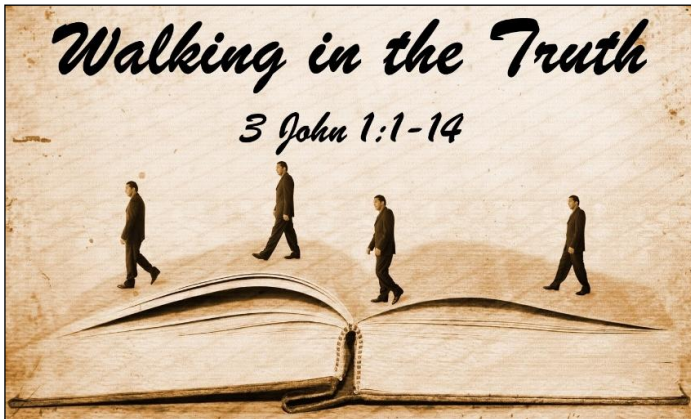
Mark 10:42-45 (Marcos 10:42-45)

3. Let's imitate what is _____.
Imitemos lo _____.

3 John 1:11 (3 Juan 1:11)

Hebrews 13:7 (Hebreos 13:7)

1 Corinthians 11:1 (1 Corintios 11:1)



Life Group Discussion Questions

June 14-21

Scripture: 3 John 1:1-14

Third John is a personal letter that John wrote to an individual named Gaius. The second person pronouns are consistently singular throughout the letter. In this sense, Third John is more personal than First and Second John.

Some missionaries came to John and gave a good report about Gaius and the hospitality they received from him. John commended Gaius for supporting these missionaries even though they were strangers (1:5).

John also wrote to warn Gaius about a church leader who was abusing his position. John identifies Diotrophes as a man “who loves to be first among them” (1:9).

This book also serves as a letter of recommendation for Demetrius. John probably sent Demetrius to deliver this letter to Gaius. It may be that Gaius was looking for a fellow worker to help him out with his ministries. John tells Gaius that, “Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone” (1:12).

Third John is the shortest book in the Bible. And yet, it still carries important lessons relevant for us today. While John does not teach specific doctrines here like he does in his other letters, he does emphasize some important principles for ministry in God’s Kingdom that are practical for the church of the twenty-first century.

Read 3 John 1:1-14

1. How did John describe himself in verse 1?
2. What did John say about Gaius in verse 1?
3. What did John pray for in verse 2?

John Stott comments,

There is biblical warrant here for desiring the physical as well as the spiritual welfare of our Christian friends. At the same time, those who have recently developed the so-called ‘prosperity gospel’ (that God means all his children to enjoy health and wealth in abundance) can find in this text only the flimsiest foundation for their position. Consider these points: (1) they depend almost entirely on Old Testament promises of prosperity, which were spoken to the nation Israel and were not repeated in the New

Testament to either Christian individuals or the Christian community; (2) they are insensitive to the poverty and hunger of many believers in developing nations, to whom the prosperity gospel evidently does not apply; and (3) they overlook the New Testament emphasis on adversity rather than prosperity as the chief mark of the followers of the Suffering Servant. (Stott, 227)

4. What did John hear that gave him great joy? (1:3-4)

5. Why did John describe Gaius as faithful in verse 5?

Morris Womack observes,

John praises his friend for having practiced the kind of hospitality to strangers described in Hebrews 13:2. It was meeting a need for unknown individuals who may never have a way to repay the favor. Some have commented that 3 John is not centered on “doctrine.” Yet a proper understanding of the doctrine of Christian hospitality is vital to the life of the church! (Womack, 160)

6. What did the strangers say about Gaius? (1:5-6)

7. Why were “the brothers” sent out? (1:7)

8. What did John say about supporting Christian missionaries? (1:8)

Stott writes,

These itinerant evangelists are not ‘deceivers’ (2 John 7), bringing with them the lie that Jesus is not the Christ, the Son of God. On the contrary, they bring with them the truth. To receive one of the former is to ‘share in his wicked work’ (2 John 11); to receive the latter is to be a fellow worker with the truth. The Christian missionaries co-operate with the truth by proclaiming it; we co-operate with it by entertaining them. The Christian missionary enterprise is, therefore, not undertaken by evangelists only, but also by those who entertain and support them. (Stott, 231)

9. What did Diotrephes love? (1:9)

10. What did John want to warn the church about? (1:9-10)

Gary Burge notes,

When John himself comes for a visit, he will need allies who stand for Christ and against Diotrephes. Gaius will be one of those allies. It is significant that John does not ask Gaius to intervene in the controversy by confronting Diotrephes himself. Christians are called to different roles, and Gaius has done enough if he stands firm for Jesus Christ and provides John and his couriers an entrée into the community. (Burge, 245–246)

11. What did John tell Gaius to do in verse 11?

Womack writes,

Gaius is addressed personally to regain his attention for instruction. John has described what is evil, now he will define what is good. Do not mimic (μὴ μιμοῦ, *mē mimou*—do not imitate) the evil, but do imitate the good. The apostle may not have intended to limit the example of evil to Diotrephes and the good to Demetrius. The reader naturally draws that conclusion from the context simply because the contrasts are immediately obvious. (Womack, 164-165)

12. What did John say about Demetrius in verse 12?

13. Why is Third John such a short letter? (1:13-14)

14. How did John want Gaius to greet his friends? (1:14)

15. What gives you great joy in your relationships with other believers?

16. How can we show hospitality to other Christians?

17. Why do some leaders love to be first, like Diotrephes?

18. What motivates people to gossip?

19. How can you encourage or support a Christian mission?

20. How will you imitate good rather than evil this week?

Sources cited:

Burge, Gary. *The Letters of John*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996.
Stott, John. *The Letters of John*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2009.
Womack, Morris. *1, 2, & 3 John*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 1998.