



# LETTERS OF John

1 & 2 & 3 John

## The Letters of John | “For Our Kids”

### 3 John 1:1-15

Trevor’s Story → We all want our kids to value what really matters. → 3 John 1-15

*“I used to be afraid of failing at something that really mattered to me, but now I’m more afraid of succeeding at things that don’t matter.” - Bob Goff, Love Does: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life in an Ordinary World*

→ Raising a child is no easy task. Shaping and influencing the next generation of followers of Jesus is no simple process. Our kids are faced with challenges in their personal lives, but also the dangers and threats of living in a world that does not know God. If all of our parenting could be summarized into a few values, what would those values be? What do we want for our kids? The shortest book in the entire Bible has a lot of punch packed into 15 total verses.

→ **What do we want for our kids?** → My own dad was diagnosed with a brain tumor at age 42...and im 42. This is me.

→ In the third letter of John, “the Elder,” writes to Gaius in commendation of Demetrius and in opposition of a local pastor, Diotrephes, who failed to show Kingdom hospitality to John’s friends, the visiting teachers. On the surface, these circumstances may not seem to mean much today. And yet, through this conflict, we feel John’s deepest joy and hope for “his kids.” He wants them to walk in truth, give generously, and BE the church in ways that show the goodness of God.

**3 John 1-15:** *1 This letter is from John, the elder. I am writing to Gaius, my dear friend, whom I love in the truth.*

*2 Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit. 3 Some of the traveling teachers recently returned and made me very happy by telling me about your faithfulness and that **you are living according to the truth.** 4 I could have no greater joy than to hear that **my children are following the truth.***

**We LEAD the next gen to FOLLOW the Truth.** → We live in a world: changing definitions, personal pathways, & escapism.

- John’s day was no different: sex lives of roman emperors, pride of empire.. → Maven Conference: devoted to Jesus..
- John 14:6 → We must KNOW & FOLLOW the truth. → Invisilign → Progress...not perfection. → Disciples!
- VISION: Do not delegate teaching Jesus to your kids. → Prayer: Lord, we pray our kids would FOLLOW Jesus.

→ **TRANSITION:** We lead the next generation to Jesus...by aligning every area of our lives to HIM...and to His mission.

*5 Dear friend, you are being faithful to God when you care for the traveling teachers who pass through, even though they are strangers to you. 6 They have told the church here of your loving friendship. Please continue providing for such teachers in a manner that pleases God. 7 For they are traveling for the Lord, and they accept nothing from people who are not believers. 8 So we ourselves should support them so that we can be their partners as they teach the truth.*

*9 I wrote to the church about this, but Diotrephes, who loves to be the leader, refuses to have anything to do with us. 10 When I come, I will report some of the things he is doing and the evil accusations he is making against us. Not only does he refuse to welcome the traveling teachers, he also tells others not to help them. And when they do help, he puts them out of the church.*

**We LEAD the next gen to SUPPORT the mission of God.** → The work of God is supported by the people of God.

- Common model in John's day: traveling teachers would support their teaching ministry through the people they taught. Pastor/leader Diotrephes used his position of spiritual leadership to lead people to Himself, NOT Jesus.
- Tithes. Offerings & Hospitality. → Do we trust God? Do we love God? → Thermometer → Matthew 6:21
- Dad's job is to pray, teach, & model love for Jesus & His mission. → The Spirit inspires us. → Disciples not donors!
- VISION: Explain to your kids WHY you give. → Prayer: Lord, help us to lead our kids to YOU & to your mission.

→ TRANSITION: We lead our kids to the truth of Jesus & His Spirit will lead them to His mission. But giving checks... is not enough. We must BE the church... DOING good in a world that needs to know God is good.

*11 Dear friend, don't let this bad example influence you. Follow only what is good. Remember that those who do good prove that they are God's children, and those who do evil prove that they do not know God.*

*12 Everyone speaks highly of Demetrius, as does the truth itself. We ourselves can say the same for him, and you know we speak the truth.*

*13 I have much more to say to you, but I don't want to write it with pen and ink. 14 For I hope to see you soon, and then we will talk face to face. 15 Peace be with you. Your friends here send you their greetings. Please give my personal greetings to each of our friends there.*

**We LEAD the next gen to BE the church.** → ...not just criticize it. → How? → DO GOOD!

- Demetrius needed to DO GOOD & support Gaius. John was advocating. Don't join in with Diotrephes'!
- Don't get sucked into criticizing & not supporting. → Instead, DO GOOD & PROVE that you are God's children. Who needs the PROOF? → The world needs to know! → Matthew 5:16 → Our goodness reveals God.
- My kids... or God's kids? → Judah / Poinsettias → Our kids will BE the church to the world when we're gone.
- VISION: SERVE DAY... with your kids. March 18. → Prayer: Lord, lead us to YOUR way.

→ TRANSITION: We lead our kids to Jesus, they get invested in His Kingdom... and their LIVES reflect God's goodness.

**→ I want my kids to know Jesus and to follow him with all of their hearts!**

**TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.**

1. What were the most important lessons our parents or grandparents taught us in life?
2. What do we want our kids to learn from us? If we could only teach them 3 things, what would they be?
3. What does John's conflict with Diotrephes lead him to teach Gaius in this letter?
4. How will I help my kids, or the next generation, to know Jesus and to follow him with their whole hearts?
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, help us to raise the next generation to know you and to live for you and your mission on this Earth!"

## QUOTES:

- *"I used to be afraid of failing at something that really mattered to me, but now I'm more afraid of succeeding at things that don't matter."* - **Bob Goff**, Love Does: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life in an Ordinary World
- *"There are three ways to ultimate success: The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind."* - **Fred Rogers**

## GRAPHICS / VIDEOS:

- Trevor Millar's Rehabilitation / Stroke Video:



- Bible Project **123 John Graphic**: [Click here!](#)
- Bible Project **Video**: [Click Here for Youtube Separate Browser Window.](#)



## SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

- **John 14:6** - Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.
- **Matthew 6:21** - Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.
- **Matthew 5:16** - In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

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