

The Third Epistle of JOHN
“How To Have Great Joy?”

I) Have a TESTIMONY of TRUTH! (v1-4)

(v1) How should we love each other? Love in truth!

(v2) How should we pray for each other? Pray for one another to prosper in all things and be in good health.

(v3) What should others say about us? We testify of the truth. We walk in truth.

(v4) What brought John great joy? That his children walk in truth.

> Teaching our children to “walk in truth”:

- Ps 127:3 - Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward.

- Prov 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

- Prov 23:24 - The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise child will delight in him.

- Ps 27:10 - When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take care of me.

- Prov 8:32 - "Now therefore, listen to me, my children, for blessed are those who keep my ways.

II) Be a FELLOW WORKER for TRUTH! (v5-8)

> Let's listen to Jesus - Matthew 25:14-30

> Keys to a “good & faithful servant”- Romans 12:9-21

#1 - Love sincerely

#2 - Abhor evil

#3 - Do good

#4 - Be kindly affectionate w/brotherly love

#5 - Give honor to one another (put others first)

#6 - Be diligent (do it always)

#7 - Fervent in spirit (be vibrant)

#8 - Serve the Lord

#9 - Rejoice in hope

#10 - Patient in tribulation

#11 - Consistent in prayer

#12 - Help one another

#13 - Be hospitable

#14 - Be a blessing to the persecutor

#15 - Rejoice and weep with one another

#16 - Be humble in mind and life

#17 - Be a peacemaker

#18 - Trust God for justice

#19 - Overcome evil with good

III) Beware of FALSE WORKERS! (v9-11)

➤ Dirty deeds of Diotrefes:

- Selfish ambition - Malicious talk

- Self glory - Divisive

- Isolation - Exclusionary

IV) **Be a TRUE FRIEND! (v12-13)**

- True friends **compliment** one another (I.E.- Demetrius)- No **competition!**
- True friends have a **true testimony**- *They're real!*
- True friends **hope to see each other**- **Acceptance!**
- True friends **share their lives** with each other- **Share, ask, and listen!**
- True friends bring **peace**- No **insecurities!**
- True friends have **true friends**- No **expectations!**

Jesus said in John 15:13-17- *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another.*