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### 3 JOHN

1) \_\_\_\_\_ should never come without \_\_\_\_\_.

3 John [1] The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth.

Ephesians 4:15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.

3 John [2] Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. [3] For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. [4] I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. [5] Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, [6] who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. [7] For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. [8] Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

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2) Only one person can have pre-eminence among the people of God: \_\_\_\_\_.

3 John [9] I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority.

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

## NAVIGATING CONFLICT

A. Soak the whole thing in \_\_\_\_\_.

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

B. Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ up.

"Avoidance is the best short term strategy to avoid conflict and the best long term strategy to ensure suffering."

Galatians 6:1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.

C. Talk to the \_\_\_\_\_ before you talk to anyone else.

Matthew 18:15 If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained a brother.

D. Check your \_\_\_\_\_.

3 John [11] Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.

E. Never bring \_\_\_\_\_ w/out \_\_\_\_\_.

3 John [12] Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true. [13] I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink. [14] I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. [15] Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, each by name.

F. Be ready to \_\_\_\_\_.

Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

### DIGGING DEEPER

- 3 John is pretty short. Before you begin your study, read the book as a group. What stood out to you this time?
- Think about the question "if John wrote your name down (as he did Gaius and Diotrephes) what would he say?" However, instead of answering that out loud, answer, "What would you want him to say?"
- Is missionary support and global outreach a priority to you? Why or why not? How does John feel about it? (see vs. 5-7)
- Can you relate to Diotrephes? In what way?
- Review the principles for Navigating Conflict above. What seems to be the most difficult?