

Message #3

III John 1:5-8

GOD'S TRUE TEACHERS ARE TO BE SUPPORTED BY GOD'S PEOPLE IN A MANNER WORTHY OF GOD; AND WHEN YOU SUPPORT GOD'S TRUE TEACHERS, YOU BECOME A FELLOW WORKER IN THE PROPAGATION OF THE TRUTH AND YOU WILL BE COMMENDED FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS.

There is a sharp contrast between II John and III John. II John warns against supporting false teachers and III John encourages us to support true teachers.

Gaius was obviously a very wealthy man. God had apparently entrusted him with a great sum of money and with a beautiful home and Gaius used his money and home for the glory of God. He had a reputation of opening up his heart, home and pocketbook to those who were faithful and true teachers; and in this section of Scripture, the Apostle John commends him for this.

HEADING #1 – The commendation of Gaius. **1:5**

John wanted Gaius to know that he was acting in a faithful way to God when he would do tangible things for “the brethren.” The noun brethren has the article “the,” meaning specific brethren.

Now the brethren that he has in mind are the true teachers of the Word of God who were sanctioned by the apostles. If a true teacher showed up at Gaius' house, he would take them in and house and feed them and apparently financially care for them at an amazing level. Some of these teachers he did not even know.

HEADING #2 – The reputation of Gaius. **1:6**

Gaius had earned a tremendous name for himself before the church. John does not have one local church in mind, but the Church universal. There is no article before Church which means John is viewing the Church as the body. In the character and quality of the church, Gaius had earned a reputation as a man who loved true teachers and sent them on their way in a manner worthy of God.

Now we learn something very important here about love. Love was not some giddy emotion; it was tangible action.

That phrase “manner worthy of God” may mean one of three things:

- 1) He sent them on their way supporting them the way God should be treated.
- 2) He sent them on their way supporting them the way God had treated him—blessed him abundantly.
- 3) He sent them on their way supporting them in a way that brings praise and glory to God.

A true teacher of God should be supported at the highest possible level—in the way you view God. It is a disgrace and it is heresy to think that a true teacher of God should live life as a beggar.

HEADING #3 – The motivation of Gaius. **1:7-8**

The conjunction “for” which begins **verse 7** gives us reasons or motivations for ministering and generously giving to true teachers of God in a manner worthy of God:

(Reason #1) - Because their willingness to go is for the sake of the name. **1:7a**

True ministers and teachers of God are willing to go anywhere God sends them to teach for the name of Jesus Christ. That is why they are willing to uproot and leave one place and go to another. It is not about a job, it is not about a promotion; it is about the work of God and the name of Jesus Christ.

(Reason #2) - Because they do not take money from the unsaved. **1:7b**

God’s true teachers are to be supported in a manner worthy of God by God’s people. They should not be getting their money from the lost world.

(Reason #3) - Because of our debt. **1:8a**

The word “ought” is a Greek word that refers to what is owed such as in a debt (G. Abbott-Smith, p. 330). John is basically saying that true teachers should be supported in a manner worthy of God because we owe them a great debt, namely, they have taught us the true doctrine of God.

(Reason #4) - Because of our partaking in the work of God. **1:8b**

When people are saved or people grow and you are sharing in that ministry by your giving, you share in the fruit of that ministry. This is a very real fact in the mind of God.

Parting Lessons:

- 1) When you have the chance to do something or buy something for a true teacher of God, make it the best you can in a manner worthy of God.
- 2) We must never share anything with false teachers, but we should willingly share everything with true teachers.
- 3) True teachers of God will not accept money from those who are lost.
- 4) When you share tangibly with the ministry of a true teacher, you do lay up treasures in heaven.