

# Lion and Lamb Apologetics'

## 3 JOHN

### AN OVERVIEW

#### Purpose

To commend Gaius for his hospitality and to encourage him in his Christian life.

#### Author

John, son of Zebedee

#### Date

Written c. AD 90 from Ephesus

#### Audience

To Gaius, a prominent Christian in one of the churches known to John and to all Christians everywhere.

#### Setting

Church leaders traveled from town to town establishing new congregations. They depended upon the hospitality of fellow believers. Gaius was one who welcomed these leaders into his home.

#### Special Features

Reinforcing the identity of this book as a personal letter is the way in which it is built around references to specific acquaintances from start to finish. Whereas 2 John was written to an unidentified church, this letter is filled with references to specific people and situations.



#### Key Verses

“Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.” (1:2 NIV)

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” (1:4 ESV)

“It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth.” (1:7-8 NIV84)

“Dear friend, don’t let this bad example [Diotrephes] 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.” (1:11 NLT)

#### Key People

John, Gaius, Diotrephes, Demetrius