

Love for the Faithful – Part B

3 John 1:5-8

Series: Christian Hospitality

1. Introduction –

- a. After a general tribute to Gaius, John now mentors the hospitality and love Gaius has shown to traveling missionaries.
- b. John endeavors to affirm to Gaius that he is on the right track and that he should even go beyond what he has done to ensure that the Gospel goes forth throughout the world
- c. To John, the purpose of life was to make Jesus known.
 - i. Accordingly, it is incumbent on the Christian to make sure that all his best effort and sacrifice accomplishes the task of spreading man's only hope; the Gospel.

2. Verse 5 – Our Example – Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are,

a. Beloved...

- i. Let's review the two-fold purpose of this term
 1. It is John's deep emotional response to his brother Gaius.
 - a. John practices what he preaches. He calls us to love the brethren and throughout the Johannine epistles we see his genuine love for the brethren.

b. ...it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers...

- i. Gaius was demonstrating a concerted effort for the Gospel in not only opening his house but in essence, his life.
- ii. This, according to the apostle, was a demonstration of faithfulness.
 1. A moving away from the mere intellectual, to the application.
 2. This would have a cost associated with it. Gaius demonstrates his love for both the brethren and more importantly to the Lord.

c. ...strangers as they are,

- i. These missionaries were unknown to him and yet they were brothers united by the same faith.
 1. These missionaries were doing the work of Christ.

2. **Ephesians 4:15b-16** ...we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, (16) from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

3. Verse 6 – Our Reputation and Duty – who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God.
 - a. **...who testified to your love before the church.**
 - i. The missionaries saw, recognized, and then witnessed to the authenticity of the faith found within Gaius.
 - b. **You will do well to send them on their journey...**
 - i. Here, in essence, we see a request; a please
 - ii. The essence of it is:
 1. Our generosity to those that proclaim the truth should not be hindered but instead, it should go further:
 - a. Money
 - b. Food
 - c. Companions
 - c. **...in a manner worthy of God.**
 - i. As they were working on behalf of God, they should be treated in the most honorable way.
 1. In other words, to the praise of God.
 - d. **Practical Application:**
 - i. God wants us to give our gifts in the context of love and not out of:
 1. Compulsion
 2. Guilt of conscience
 - ii. People are of primary importance; the gift is secondary.

4. Verse 7 – 3 Reasons for Hospitality – For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles.
 - a. **For they have gone out for the sake of the name...**
 - i. They had a burning desire to reach the lost.
 - ii. They left home, comfort, family, ease
 - iii. In consideration, what is our duty to them?
 - b. **...accepting nothing from the Gentiles.**
 - i. They trusted that Christ would provide through his church.

- ii. They would not take money from the unconverted in order not to hinder the work of Christ.
 - 1. **1 Corinthians 9:12** If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

- 5. Verse 8 – Continued – Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.
 - a. **Therefore we ought to support people like these...**
 - i. **1 Corinthians 9:14** In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.
 - ii. Take no help from unbelievers because believers have undertaken to support the ministry.
 - b. **...that we may be fellow workers for the truth.**
 - i. We share in the fruits of the ministry.
 - ii. **Matthew 10:42** And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”
 - iii. **Matthew 25:40** And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

- 6. Benediction –
 - a. **Philippians 2:29-30** So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, (30) for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.