Intro: 1 The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. 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.

1. Theme: So the Church would be found true – “as indeed you are walking in the truth”

2. Purpose: That our testimony may be genuine – “brothers came and testified to your truth”

• We have three men that are an example of how the church was dealing with different types of people within its body. And it is still true today. You have basically three types of people in the church:

° Gaius the doer

° Diotrephes the selfish troublemaker

° Demetrius has the moral testimony

I. Gaius was a dear friend of John’s – 1 The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth.

a. Gaius was loved by John

• The word here for love (agapaō) is a social kind of love. It has to do with how we love each other in public. There are four types of love mentioned in the N.T.

° 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:5

b. Gaius was in the truth

• What does it mean to be “in truth”? Truly, and therefore worthy of your credit. In other words I’m staking my word and creditability on it. We place no doubt on what we have said or done. It is in truth that we make this claim.

° 8 For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. John 17:8

II. Gaius’ was given three encouraging blessings – 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.

a. Gaius was encouraged to do well

• The difference between what I preach, and some name and claim preachers teach, is that they tell you that God is the one to give you your millions, and it is the true preachers that teaches it is God who gives you the ability to make your millions. They preach that if you give 100 dollars that God will multiply it to a 1,000. I teach that God gives you the ability to take you ten dollars and make a thousand. It is called Capitalism and hard work.

° 11 and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, 1 Thessalonians 4:11

b. Gaius was encouraged to be in good health

• Some commentaries think that Gaius was sick, and this is John’s way of telling him to get better. I think that it’s more of a common greeting of hello. We do it today. We call up an old friend we haven’t seen in years, and we ask the general questions, how’s your family, is everybody healthy, can I have my $5O dollars you owe me since High School. You know your common how are you doing questions.

° 14 Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ. 1 Peter 5:14

c. Gaius was encouraged to prosper spiritually

• Prospering in the grace and fruits of the Spirit is every Christian’s goal. Remember being fruitful and multiply was one of God’s first commandments, and so it may go without saying, if our God is wanting us to multiply physically, He would want the same for our spiritual walk with the Lord.

° 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. James 3:17

III. Gaius walked in the truth – 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.

a. Gaius was a church leader

• Meaning that at some time Gaius might have had some part in the teaching or preaching roll in church. Some how the “brothers” knew that Gaius was a Christian who was walking in the truth. So, what roll did he play? It just seems that there was some leadership role he was in.

° 26 But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. Luke 22:26

b. Gaius lived Christ in front of others

• There were those who saw Gaius’ walk in public and said to John that he “walked in the truth”. Meaning that at some time Gaius, while being a church leader; preached and taught about the Christian faith, and when others saw him in public, they knew he lived what he preached and taught.

° 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

c. Gaius was saved under John’ ministry

• It is one of the greatest joys as Pastor to see someone take root and grow in the Lord. John had such spiritual joy to see that one of His converts was doing so well in his walk with God – “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”

IV. Gaius was a help to his church – 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.

a. Gaius had faithful works – it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts

• Not all works are bad. It is the faithful ones who keep works as a teaching means and not for acquiring a “get out of hell free card” bribery to God.

° 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:22

b. Gaius’ good works did not go unnoticed – who testified to your love before the church.

• Good works is not for salvation, but they are for spiritual growth, as well as for encouraging others to do good as well. How many times have you said, “if brother/sister so and so can do so can I”? People will see you if you don’t grow weary, faint, or quit. Blessings will come if you just keep working at it.

° 9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:9-10

c. Gaius received support from other ministers – “we ought to support people like these”

• Gaius was the type of church leader that thought more of others than himself. He put in hours to see to the needs of his fellow Christians before taking care of himself. In other words, he put the kingdom of God first before his own.

° 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33