

3 John: The Marks Of A Christian

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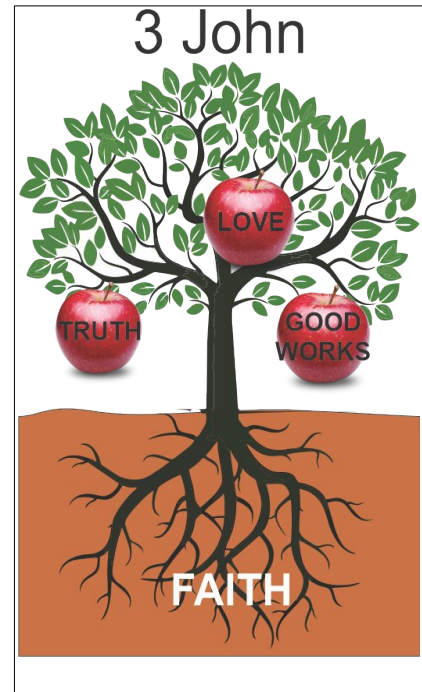
0. Introduction

0.1 Review: Love

- a. four types of love
 1. Agape: will (sacrificial; God loves despite us being unlovable,)
 2. Phileo: mind/friendship: in church brothers and sisters
 3. Eros: emotional
 4. Porneo: physical
- b. Place of Love
 1. all inherently good in their correct usage/place
 2. none are inherently evil
 3. but some are more easily corrupted by Satan...
 - e.g. porneo more than agape!

0.2 Structure of 3 John

1. Lets will read through together.
2. Vs1 Introduction/Salutation
3. Body (3x Dear friend → letter's structure)
 - i. vs2 Dear friend,
 - ii. vs5 Dear friend,
 - iii. vs11 Dear friend,
4. Vs 13-14 Closing



1. Salutation

- a. short and simple. I like this about John's writings. Quickly to the meat. not longwinded like some preachers...
- b. From: Jesus' disciple John.
 - i. Apostle of LOVE
 - ii. last written letter (that is extant) before he dies
- c. To: Gaius
 - i. not sure, but he could be at Ephesus.
 - ii. Paul mentioned a Gaius in Romans
 - "Gaius, mine host, and of the whole Church."
 - iii. We cannot say for certain.
2. Relationship
 - i. Which Greek word do you think John uses for LOVE? *αγαπη*
 - ii. these old men have a close longterm relationship due to christ.

1.2 The introduction to each section

1. English: Dear friend,
2. Chinese: qin-ai de, (The Chinese is a better translation.)
3. GREEK each section starts with a single word: agape!
4. (friend is a translation for phileo-love NOT agape)

2. Into The Body "The (3) Marks of the Christian"

2.1 The first mark of a "healthy" Christian...

1. Lets read the first paragraph --
2. What word is repeated 3x (at least in Greek, Chinese, KJV, except NIV)
3. TRUTH! Zhen-Li aletheia
4. John wishes the person's physical health is just like his spiritual health
5. (suitable for old men)
6. so we know he is a spiritually healthy.
7. vs 3 get to the first mark of a healthy faith: truth
 - i. heart fixed on truth (no falsehood, no deception, no incongruency)
 - ii. actions taken are based on truth
8. vs 4 when anyone's actions are based on truth
 - i. apostle is happy,
 - ii. → God is happy.
9. What about us?
 - i. Is our heart "one with the truth"?
 - ii. Are our actions based on the truth?
 - iii. Or do we try to hard the dark parts of our actions?
 - iv. Or worse, do we seek to deceive others by appearing to be better than we are?

2.2 vs 5 The second mark of a healthy Christian: LOVE

a. The Principle

1. demonstrated in how we treat those from whom we have nothing to gain.
2. vs 6 -- Which word for love is used here? Yes, agape
3. strangers, brothers and sisters : helping/hospitality to those from which we can gain nothing. these travelling preachers are putting forth God's word but cannot do something for us.
4. Love, but not just any of the 4 types but agape, is the 2nd mark for a healthy christian
5. What about us? Do we demonstrate agape love?

b. Vs 9-10 The Counter-Example: incorrect love

1. Diotrophes : vs9 .He also has love.(not in Chinese)
2. What Greek word do you think John uses for "love"?
3. phileo -- brotherly love, reciprocal love
4. But what is the object of Diotrophes' love? Is it a person?
5. No, it is a position! In other words, he loves himself.
6. Due to this incorrect love... his behaviour is the mirror-opposite of agape
 - i. does not welcome those who have higher position in the faith, e.g. John
 - ii. gossips against others to make himself look better
 - iii. refuses to show agape love to fellow believers
 - iv. stops those who want to show agape love to others.

c. What about us?

1. Are our lives characterized by the 2nd mark of a Christian? Agape love for those who cannot do anything for us.
2. OR are we like Diotrophes?
 - i. Loving our own position,
 - ii. jealous of those God is using seeing them as a threat to our position.

3. In Movie, Amadeus: Salieri an older composer, is depicted as jealous of Mozart's talent. He was a pious Christian, yet Mozart had the talent

2.3 vs 11-12 the third mark of a Christian:

a. Principle (read Vs 11)

1. vs 11: echoes Psalm 34:4 "Turn from evil and do good;"
2. So clearly "Do Good, Turn from Evil."
3. GOOD WORKS

b. Positive Example

1. Demetrius: (because of his good works...)
 - i. everyone speaks well of him (well known)
 - ii. his actions are based in truth
 - iii. We (the apostles) also think well of him
2. Demetrius: the name sounds familiar. In Ephesus? Is this the same Demetrius who led the silversmiths to attack Paul in Ephesus due his concerns about losing \$\$\$ from Diana cult? If it is one and the same, This is clearly an excellent example of a man who as a result of saving FAITH has turned from evil and now does good!

3. Closing Paragraph

1. vs 13-14a can see the phileo love of John for Gaius -- this longing to meet face to face
2. vs 14b Chinese translate: Pengyou, English translate: friend
3. Can you guess which Greek word for love is used twice here?
4. phileo! → brotherly love
5. "The ones that are with me that I phileo send their greeting. Please give my greeting to all the ones that I phileo. Please do it individually by name."

4. Conclusion

1. Our relationship with Jesus is rooted in FAITH.
 2. Our relationship to brothers and sisters in Christ is due the same to FAITH.
 3. This is the root/foundation.
- b. But as a result of this faith our lives must be marked by:
1. TRUTH
 2. LOVE
 3. GOOD WORKS
- c. What about us?
1. Do we live open and authentic lives? Are our lives rooted in TRUTH?
 2. Do we show 'agape' love?
 - i. We need to show phileo, eros, and porneo where these are appropriate.
 - ii. But any decent person shows these characteristics.
 - iii. The 2nd mark of a Christian is AGAPE
 - iv. Agape: Love for those who are "no use to us." Those we may never see again.
 3. Do we demonstrate GOOD WORKS in our daily lives?
- d. These are the 3 external marks that reflect the inward reality of FAITH.
- e. As an aside: 3 John is an excellently formatted letter/paper and I hope that students, e.g. Justin, will use it as an inspiration for their own papers!

5. Supporting Scripture 3 John

<p>1 作 長 老 的 寫 信 給 親 愛 的 該 猶 ， 1 就 是 我 誠 心 所 愛 的 。 (=agape)</p>	<p>The elder to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.</p>
<p>2 親 愛 的 兄 弟 啊 ， (=agape) 2 我 願 你 2 凡 事 興 盛 ， 身 體 健 壯 ， 2 如 你 的 靈 魂 興 盛 一 樣 。 3 有 弟 兄 來 證 明 3 你 心 里 存 的 真 理 ， 3 正 如 你 按 真 理 而 行 ， 3 我 就 甚 喜 樂 。 4 我 聽 見 4 我 的 兒 女 們 按 真 理 而 行 ， 4 我 的 喜 樂 就 沒 有 比 這 個 大 的 。</p>	<p>Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be healthy, even as your soul prospers. For I rejoiced greatly, when brothers came and testified about your truth, even as you walk in truth. I have no greater joy than this, to hear about my children walking in truth.</p>
<p>5 親 愛 的 弟 兄 啊 ， (=agape) 5 凡 你 向 作 客 旅 之 弟 兄 所 行 的 ， 5 都 是 忠 心 的 ； 6 他 們 在 教 會 面 前 證 明 了 你 的 愛 。 (=agape) 6 你 若 配 得 過 神 ， 幫 助 他 們 往 前 行 ， 6 這 就 好 了 。 7 因 他 們 是 為 主 的 名 （ 原 文 作 那 名 ） 出 外 ， 7 對 於 外 邦 人 一 無 所 取 。 8 所 以 我 們 應 該 接 待 這 樣 的 人 ， 8 叫 我 們 與 他 們 一 同 為 真 理 作 工 。</p>	<p>Beloved, you do a faithful work in whatever you accomplish for those who are brothers and strangers. They have testified about your love before the assembly. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a way worthy of God, because for the sake of the Name they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.</p>
<p>9 我 曾 略 略 的 寫 信 給 教 會 。 9 但 那 在 教 會 中 好 為 首 的 (=愛:phileo) 9 丟 特 腓 不 接 待 我 們 。 10 所 以 我 若 去 ， 10 必 要 題 說 他 所 行 的 事 。 10 就 是 他 用 惡 言 妄 論 我 們 。 10 還 不 以 此 為 足 ， 10 他 自 己 不 接 待 弟 兄 ， 10 有 人 願 意 接 待 ， 10 他 也 禁 止 ， 10 并 且 將 接 待 弟 兄 的 人 趕 出 教 會 。</p>	<p>I wrote to the assembly, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, doesn't accept what we say. Therefore if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words. Not content with this, neither does he himself receive the brothers, and those who would, he forbids and throws out of the assembly.</p>
<p>11 親 愛 的 兄 弟 啊 ， (=agape) 11 不 要 效 法 惡 ， 11 只 要 效 法 善 。 11 行 善 的 屬 乎 神 。 11 行 惡 的 未 曾 見 過 神 。 12 低 米 丟 行 善 12 有 眾 人 給 他 作 見 證 。 12 又 有 真 理 給 他 作 見 證 。 12 就 是 我 們 也 給 他 作 見 證 。 12 你 也 知 道 我 們 的 見 證 是 真 的 。</p>	<p>Beloved, don't imitate that which is evil, but that which is good. He who does good is of God. He who does evil hasn't seen God. Demetrius has the testimony of all, and of the truth itself; yes, we also testify, and you know that our testimony is true.</p>
<p>13 我 原 有 許 多 事 要 寫 給 你 ， 13 卻 不 願 意 用 筆 墨 寫 給 你 。 14 但 盼 望 快 快 的 見 你 ， 14 我 們 就 當 面 談 論 。 15 願 你 平 安 。 15 眾 位 朋 友 都 問 你 安 。 (=愛:phileo) 15 請 你 替 我 按 着 姓 名 問 眾 位 朋 友 安 。 (=愛:phileo)</p>	<p>I had many things to write to you, but I am unwilling to write to you with ink and pen; but I hope to see you soon, and we will speak face to face. Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.</p>

