

# When Less is More

(3 John)

- Introduction:
1. 3 John is one of only five “one chapter” books in the Bible.
  2. It is written to a member of a local church that had some rather serious problems.
  3. In this third book of John, we are introduced to three men, all of which are worthy of our consideration.
  4. In this lesson we will examine a few lessons we can learn from these three men.

## I. Gaius: A Prosperous Christian

- A. (3 John 1-8).
- B. Four times in this short book, John refers to Gaius as “beloved.”
- C. An amazing prayer is offered for Gaius.
  1. That your health prospers as your soul (v. 2).
  2. What would happen to you if this prayer was answered with regard to your life?
- D. He is rich in his love for the truth and his brethren.

## II. Diotrephes: A Proud Christian

- A. (3 John 9-10).
- B. Jesus alone has preeminence in the church (Colossians 1:18).
- C. Diotrephes needed a dose of John the Baptist’s attitude (John 3:30).
- D. Most people who desire to lord over a congregation follow a similar strategy.
  1. Creep in unawares (Jude4).
  2. Flatter people to gain advantage (2 Samuel 15:1-6; Jude 16).
  3. They prat against leaders (3 John 10; 1 Timothy 5:19).
- E. God will humble the proud (Matthew 23:12; James 4:6).

## III. Demetrius: A Praiseworthy Christian

- A. (2 John 11-12).
- B. Every congregation needs a “Demetrius.”
- C. His Christ-likeness is testified to by his brethren and the Word of God, itself.
- D. Is your life such that you could be set forth as an example for others to follow?
- E. Would your brethren be able to recognize you as a godly person?

- Conclusion:
1. In this short book, we can see why the church was suffering, and we can also see the solution to their problems.
  2. May this little book challenge us to be the kind of people God wants us to be.