

Gaius

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Introduction: What book of the Bible written to a man named Gaius?

- A. He is one of many unsung heroes of the Bible.
- B. We read about him in the book of **III John**.
 - 1. Over the years I have know many who faced some of the challenges that Gaius faced.
 - 2. We are given examples like this to help us know what is God's will when we face difficult challenges. **(1 Cor 10:11)**
 - 3. Let us observe some qualities in the man named Gaius.

I. He Walked In Truth.

- A. Our life is a walk with two possibilities --- light or darkness. **(3 Jn 3-4)**
 - 1. We are living in a time where the pursuit of truth is ridiculed and called "legalism."
 - 2. Those who have vocally spoken this way have revealed an attitude that denies any "rules" that come from God's word. **(Jn 12:48-50)**
 - 3. When we speak of truth, we speak of that which can be known by all. We must love the truth and believe it can be found. **(Acts 17:11)**
 - 4. There is a progression in this verse to Love then Know and then Walk in the truth.
- B. Not everyone loves the truth.
 - 1. This will be true of some Christians. **(2 Tim 4:2-4)**
 - 2. When you are diligently loving and seeking truth, what kind of teaching do you want?
 - 3. Finding truth takes a diligence that many do not have. **(Mt 13:13-16)**
 - 4. Many in the name of openness, love and grace hate the truth!
- C. There is only ***one*** alternative to the truth, deception. **(2 Thess 2:9-12)**
 - 1. Do you see the progression? No Love--Believe the lie--then condemned.
 - 2. What is a lover of truth like? John rejoiced in Gaius.

Give Me the Truth

By Bill Crews

If you are my friend, if you are concerned for my soul, **give me the truth**. Do not flatter me. Do not praise my virtues while remaining silent about my vices. Do not fear that truth will offend me. Do not treasure our friendship or our friendly relations above my salvation. Do not think that by ignoring my sins you can help me. Do not think that being blind to my sins will prove you charitable. However I may react to it, give me the truth! For the truth can make me free from the shackles of sin, strengthen me in the pathways of righteousness, and lead me in the joys of heaven. If I am wavering, weak, lukewarm, indifferent, negligent, if I have been drawn into the pleasures of the world, if I have left my first love, if I have been lead astray by error, or if I have done none of these things, but simply need to grow in knowledge and be edified, **give me the truth**.

II. He is a Hospitable Person

A. Please note the *kind* of hospitality. (3 Jn 5-8)

1. This is not just having your best friend over for dinner.
2. This is an unselfish hospitality that advances the cause of the Lord.
3. What kind of opportunities have we seen here?
4. Our concern for others is characteristic of those who find God's truth.
(Mt 25:35-40)

B. The use of the homes in the New Testament.

1. **Jesus expected houses to be opened in His personal ministry.**
(Mt 10:11-15; Lk 10:38-42)
2. Christians met in their homes to be with each other. **(Acts 2:41-42, 47)**
3. Christians may come together to pray. **(Acts 12:5)**
4. **2 John** was written to a woman who was very hospitable. **(2 Jn 9-11)**

C. Gaius received men he did not know.

1. These were "strangers." **(3 Jn 5)**
2. He did this "for His names sake" that is for the spread of the gospel. This was not just a pleasure trip.
3. How many times have you used your home for the cause of Christ?
4. Let us consider some excuses.

III. He was a Fearless Man.

A. Many are cowards in respect to the truth of God. (Rev 21:8; Jn 12:42-43)

1. Some are ashamed they are Christians, and are ashamed of the Bible.
2. Cowardly people can be easily manipulated.

B. In the church was a man called "Diotrephes." (3 Jn 9-10)

1. Churches need a qualified leadership. Without it proud men will seek to gain control. They do so without principle.
2. Gaius stood up to him and John said "do it again!"
3. No man can throw you out of the Lord's church.
4. Do not be ashamed of good people fighting in the Lord's cause. Give them support. **(2 Tim 1:6-8)**

C. Gaius was a man of Spiritual strength.

1. He was committed to loving what is right. **(3 Jn 11-14; 1:2)**
2. What would this mean to you? Never another sick day? Or Drop dead?
3. Do you look at God's word as you do physical nourishment?
4. What if God blessed you materially in proportion with you giving to his work? **(Heb 13:5-6; Lk 9:24)**

Conclusion: Build you life upon the rock. God will not forsake you. Be a Gaius!
(Adapted from Bill Hall)