

September 25-26, 2021

Title: Little Books with a Big Message, Pt. 2: “No Greater Joy” – 3 John

Big Idea: There is no greater joy than loving one another in truth.

What in the message stood out to you?

Read 3 John. What questions do you have?

1. Love one another IN TRUTH!

Read 3 John 1:1. John refers to himself as an elder. What do you understand about the role of an elder in the church (see Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:2; 1 Peter 5:1-2)?

John refers to Gaius as “beloved.” In our culture today, it is often considered strange for men to speak to other men like this and express their love for them. Why do you think this is?

Loving one another “in truth” refers to a kind of love that corresponds to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus. It means to love one another like Jesus has loved us (see John 15:12-13). What are some of the characteristics of this kind of love?

2. REJOICE over one another

Read 3 John 1:2-4. Joy and rejoicing are the theme of this section. Do you have a hard time believing that Jesus rejoices over you? Why or why not?

Read Romans 5:8, Hebrews 12:2 and Zephaniah 3:17. How do these verses help you believe that Jesus rejoices over you?

Read Psalm 147:10-11. Based on this passage, what are the conditions we must meet for God to take pleasure in us? What does it mean to meet these conditions? By whose power do we meet these conditions (see Ephesians 2:8).

When it comes to “rejoicing” over one another, what would it look like to love one another the way Jesus loves us?

3. WORK for the truth together

Read 3 John 1:5-8. What does John commend Gaius for doing in these verses?

What are some ways that we can support the mission of God in the world today?

What are some ways that we can engage in the mission of God in our own lives?

#### 4. REBUKE one another

Read 3 John 1:9-10. What is Diotrephes guilty of in these verses?

Read Philippians 2:3-5. How do Paul's instructions in these verses differ from what you see in Diotrephes in 3 John?

What are some ways that people might be tempted to put themselves first in the church today? What are some ways that you personally struggle with this?

Why do you think that rebuking one another like John does to Diotrephes is actually a way of loving each other?

Have you ever had a fellow believer lovingly rebuke you? What impact did it have in your life?

#### 5. IMITATE one another

Read 3 John 1:11-12. Why is it loving to find godly examples to imitate?

Who are some of the godly examples that you imitate in your own life? What are the reasons you are drawn to imitate them?

What are some ways to find godly examples to imitate?

#### 6. RUB SHOULDERS with one another

Read 3 John 1:13-15. There are some things that just can't be done over zoom or YouTube. They can't be done with pen and ink or digital messages. We need to see each other and talk face to face. Why do you think this is?

Do you know anyone who has not come back to church in person since COVID? How can you reach out to them and encourage them?

#### Oneness & Witness Takeaway:

Get plugged into a small community of believers who are taking their next steps together. Join our women's Bible study. Join our men's Bible study. Join a next step session. Join a growth group. Join Celebrate Recovery. But join something. Don't try to grow alone. There is no greater joy than growing together and loving one another in truth.

Close your time by sharing prayer requests and praying together.