



## THE FOUR MARKS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

1. A PLACE WHERE NEW CHRISTIANS ARE \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>1</sup> *The elder,*

*To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth.*

<sup>2</sup> *Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.* <sup>3</sup> *It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it.* <sup>4</sup> *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*

**3 John 1:1-4**

2. A PLACE WHERE \_\_\_\_\_ ARE MADE TO \_\_\_\_\_ FOR CHRIST.

<sup>5</sup> *Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you.* <sup>6</sup> *They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God.* <sup>7</sup> *It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans.* <sup>8</sup> *We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth.*

**3 John 1:5-8**

3. A PLACE WHERE THERE ARE  
\_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ THROUGH A  
\_\_\_\_\_ OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP.

*<sup>9</sup> I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us. <sup>10</sup> So when I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, spreading malicious nonsense about us. Not satisfied with that, he even refuses to welcome other believers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.*

**3 John 1:9-10**

**Acts 6:1-7**

4. A PLACE WHERE THERE IS A  
\_\_\_\_\_ OF CHRISTIAN \_\_\_\_\_.

*<sup>11</sup> Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God. <sup>12</sup> Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone—and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.*

*<sup>13</sup> I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. <sup>14</sup> I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name.*

**3 John 1:11-14**

**Fill in the blanks:** followed up, disciples, sacrifices, reach people, checks, balances, plurality, consistency, lifestyle

*This Study Guide will help you go deeper throughout the week with daily scripture reading and questions for your own personal reflection and application. It is also designed to be used for discussion with your family, friends, and Life Group.*

## OPEN UP

Do you find opening up your home to new people natural and enjoyable or difficult and stressful?

## UNDERSTANDING JOHN'S WRITING

The tone and length of 3 John is more like a series of texts to a friend than a letter to a church. Most of it is spent talking to or about two men. One is a great example of living out the truths John has talked about in his other two letters. The other gives a very real example of what happens when a believer refuses to listen to God's word.

## GAIUS (3 JOHN 1-8)

How does John greet Gaius? What do we learn about their relationship? (3 John 1-4)

What does John commend Gaius for (3 John 3-6)?

How does John describe "the brothers", their situation, and what they were sent to do (3 John 5-8)?

## DIOTREPES (3 JOHN 9-10)

What charges does John have against Diotrephes?

At the heart of Diotrephes' attitude, what does he appear to be most concerned with? Not concerned with? (3 John 9-10)

In what situations are you most likely to fall into a "me first" attitude like Diotrephes?

## CLOSING WORDS (JOHN 11-14)

John describes Demetrius as "well spoken of by everyone". After this study of John's letters how would you want others to describe your faith and life?

## APPLY

In choosing close friends (like Gaius was to John), what do you look for? How can you be that kind of friend to others?

What opportunities do you have to extend hospitality to someone who needs it? At church? In your family? With co-workers? Neighbors? How will you respond?

## CHALLENGE

What is one way you want your faith or life to be different because of 1,2,3 John? What will you do about it this week?

### This Week's Bible Reading

- Day 1 - 3 John 1-4
- Day 2 - 3 John 5-8
- Day 3 - 3 John 9-10
- Day 4 - 3 John 11-12
- Day 5 - 3 John 13-14

### SOAP Study

The SOAP study method is a simple, yet powerful tool to help guide you into deeper understanding and life application of the Bible. There is a section in the Growth Binder that introduces you to this method and provides pages to help you get the most out of your personal Bible study.