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3 John

3 John
New International Version
1 The elder,

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

2 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. 3 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. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

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

9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us. 10 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.

11 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. 12 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.

13 I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. 14 I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.

15 Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name.

Footnotes

3 John 1:5 The Greek word for brothers and sisters (adelphoi) refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God's family.

Certainly! The book of 3 John is a short epistle (or letter) found in the New Testament of the Christian Bible. Here is a brief description and summary of its contents:

Author: The book is attributed to the Apostle John, who was one of Jesus' twelve disciples and also wrote the Gospel of John and the letters of 1 John and 2 John.

Audience: The letter is addressed to a man named Gaius, who was likely a Christian leader in a particular church. It may have also been intended for a broader audience of Christians.

Purpose: The letter is primarily concerned with addressing a conflict within a particular church community, possibly related to a group of traveling teachers who were causing problems. John encourages Gaius to continue his good work in the church and to support faithful teachers while avoiding those who are causing trouble.

Key themes: The book emphasizes the importance of hospitality and caring for traveling missionaries and teachers, as well as the need to discern true teachings from false ones. It also highlights the dangers of pride and the importance of humility in Christian leadership.

Summary: The book of 3 John is a personal letter from John to Gaius, in which John praises Gaius for his hospitality and support of traveling missionaries, and encourages him to continue in this good work. John warns against those who seek to cause division in the church and urges Gaius to stay true to the teachings of Christ. The letter ends with a brief greeting and a message of peace.

There are several important verses in the book of 3 John. Here are a few examples:

1. Verse 4: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." This verse expresses John's joy in hearing that his spiritual children are living according to the teachings of Christ.
2. Verse 11: "Beloved, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God." This verse encourages Christians to avoid following false teachers and to instead follow those who teach the truth of God.
3. Verse 13: "I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink." This verse suggests that John had more to say to his readers, but he preferred to speak with them in person rather than through writing.
4. Verse 14: "Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, each by name." This verse concludes the letter with a message of peace and a reminder to greet each individual in the church community by name.

Overall, the book of 3 John emphasizes the importance of following the truth of God and avoiding false teachings, while also encouraging hospitality, humility, and love within the Christian community.

The Third Epistle of John, often referred to as "3 John" or "III John," is a short book in the New Testament of the Bible. It consists of only one chapter, so there is no chapter 1 in this book. Instead, the entire letter is contained within a single chapter.

The primary theological thought and influence in 3 John are related to the topics of hospitality, church leadership, and the importance of supporting itinerant preachers and missionaries. Here are some key points:

Hospitality and Christian Love: The letter begins with John expressing his joy that the recipient, Gaius, is known for his faithfulness and love for the brethren. John commends Gaius for showing hospitality to itinerant preachers and missionaries who were spreading the Gospel. This reflects the Christian value of hospitality and love for fellow believers.

Supporting the Work of Ministry: John also mentions Diotrephes, who is portrayed negatively for his refusal to receive traveling missionaries and for his desire for preeminence within the church. In contrast, John encourages Gaius and others to support these missionaries in their work, emphasizing the importance of cooperation and unity within the Christian community.

Theological Influence: The theological influence of 3 John can be seen in its emphasis on the practical application of Christian principles. While it may not delve deeply into complex theological doctrines, it highlights the importance of living out one's faith through acts of love, hospitality, and support for those spreading the Gospel.

In summary, 3 John focuses on the practical aspects of Christian living, emphasizing the importance of hospitality and support for itinerant preachers and missionaries. The letter encourages believers to show love and support for one another, even in the face of challenges within the church. While it may not contain extensive theological discourse, its teachings are in line with broader Christian principles of love, unity, and service.

Notes:

The Book of 3 John is one of the shortest books in the New Testament, consisting of only 14 verses. It is written by the Apostle John and addressed to a man named Gaius, whom John commends for his faith and hospitality towards traveling preachers.

Possible challenging themes or issues that may arise from the Book of 3 John include:

1. The identity of the "Diotrephes" mentioned in verse 9, who is described as someone who loves to be first and does not acknowledge John's authority.
2. The nature of the relationship between Gaius and the traveling preachers whom John mentions, and how this relates to the broader issue of hospitality in the early Christian community.

3. The meaning of John's statement in verse 11, "Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God." This statement raises questions about the relationship between faith and works, and the nature of good and evil.
4. The broader theological implications of the Book of 3 John, including its relationship to other New Testament writings and its contribution to the development of Christian doctrine.

While these themes and issues may be challenging to interpret and understand, it is important to keep in mind that the Bible is a complex and multifaceted text that can be interpreted in a variety of ways. As such, different readers may have different questions and interpretations of the Book of 3 John based on their own backgrounds, beliefs, and perspectives.