

3John v13–14

Brotherly Love from the Father, Son, and Spirit

Thursday, September 19, 2024 • Read 3John v13–14

Questions from the Scripture text: What did John need to say (v13)? How did he not wish to do so? What did he hope to do instead (v14)? In order to speak to Gaius how? What greeting does John give? Who else greets Gaius? Whom is Gaius to greet?

How should believers relate toward one another? 3John v13–14 looks forward to the second serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **believers should love to be face to face and delight in one another.**

Gaius and the church need John to come (cf. v10), but that's not the only reason that John hopes to come. He hopes to see Gaius and speak to him face to face (v14). God has given us faces, in part so that we can know and enjoy each other face to face—so that we can understand something about being made in His image and redeemed into His image. He is a God Who lives in fellowship, and He created us and redeemed us into fellowship with Him—and with one another. John had many more things to write to Gaius (v13).

The Bible is actually shorter, in order for the Holy Spirit to emphasize to us the importance of face-to-face (v14) fellowship among believers. When YHWH lifts His face upon us, He gives us His peace (cf. N2:24–26). That is the peace that we wish for one another (v14), and it is imitated by the peace that we have with one another and the delight that we are to take in one another. So John not only wishes Gaius peace, but also conveys the delight of the true believers that are with him, and asks that his own delight be conveyed, by name, to the true believers who are with Gaius.

What is your fellowship with God like? What is your fellowship with believers like? How do these connect?

Sample prayer: Father, shine Your face upon us, and give us peace. Delight in us, and make us to delight in You. And give us such a fellowship in You that makes us delight in fellowship with one another not in the way that the worldlings do, but as part of delighting in You and having fellowship with You in Christ, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP197 "Christian Unity" or TPH409 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

"(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Third John verses 13 through 14. These are God's words. I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with penadink. I hope to see you shortly. And we shall speak face to face. Peace to you. Our friends, greet you. Greet the friends.

By name. And then this ends this reading of God's inspired and inherent words. It looks like it's just a kind brotherly. Loving close to a letter and it indeed is those things but it is not just those things there are A couple of places here. Verses 13 and 14 connect back into the letter.

one is By. Describing his urgency of Desire. To see him shortly. He shows us what a significant place. The Fellowship of Believers ought to have In our lives, in our desires. It is very urgent. That he would come. To the church where Gaius is after all. Deatrophies is running amok.

Those who Hold to true Theology and host others who do so are being excommunicated. And part of John's desire to come to, this church is From verse 10 to called the, to mind the Deeds, which geographies is doing to To lay these allegations personally. And to have the trial and excommunicate, this false excommunicator.

so it's very urgent that John would go to this church. And yet right up there. Among the other reasons, why John wants to go to this church is To speak face to face. With his brother Gaius with his beloved as he's called him three times. In this tiny little letter, three times.

He said beloved beloved beloved And again, in the singular, which Has a little bit more force in connotation than when beloved comes in the plural. So, first two verse 5 verse 11 beloved. So the first thing is How are affections should be stirred up towards those who are in Christ, not just because we're Christians together and we have some of the same ideas and some of the same commitments, those are the sorts of things.

That. Anyone can have their affections stirred up to one another over and of course these ideas are God's ideas and these commitments are God's commitments so it should be all the more in those things. But, because Believers are united to Christ. Believers are born of God. They are from the same family.

Verse 11, he who does good is of God. But then in that the second part of that in verse 11, when he says he who does evil has not seen God, this is actually related to something in verse 14 and because he who does good is of God, it's interesting.

He doesn't say but he who does evil is not of God. He says, he who does evil has not seen God. And so, there's a little bit of an imbalance in the Contrast here and what he says in verse 11 and it's telling us that there are two factors At play two factors in play.

Here, that the one who does good is born of God and has seen God. And the one who does evil is not born of God and has not seen God. And so, there's this being born of God together, that should stir up our affections towards one another. We have that seed of God in Us by the Holy Spirit, giving us faith in Christ and A by the seed of God that the Holy spirit has caused to be born in us.

Making us to be born of God, he brings us into our adoption by Union with Christ. So there's both a beginning and an adoption going on, and we should love one another who have this same seed in us, from God, have had the same begetting as it were God and who have the same adoption that?

We are God's children. But then the second thing that Was a point of contrast, is that those who are Born of God. See him. That is. We have his face. Shining upon us. We know him by faith. So this is that second Corinthians. Idea of the spirit having caused the light of the knowledge of God's glory to shine in our hearts in the face of Jesus Christ.

So there is There is something about believing into Christ of knowing him as God. That is a greater seeing of his face than eye bowls, actually. Catching reflected light. Would be a seeing of his face. Like John says in John chapter 1 the word became flesh and we beheld his glory well that was not a beholding with the eyeballs although they did behold Jesus with their eyeballs but there are many who beheld Jesus with their eyeballs.

That did not behold the glory of Jesus. They did not behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. And so this seeing God here, Is a seeing by faith. That's when the Holy Spirit gives us. To see that Jesus is God not with eyes but with faith to know the glory of God, in Jesus Christ.

But then there's not only Seeing. him seeing his face as it were by faith. But knowing that that face Smiles, upon us, Knowing that, that face is the face of number six. Is the Lord bless you and keep you the Lord. Make his face to shine upon you.

The Lord lift up his face upon you and give you peace. I know that in our translation, I think one of them is translated face. The other one is translated countenance, but it's the same word. Well the peace of God comes to us. His as it were, again, it's observed by faith, and perceived and received by faith, not by eyeballs.

But the peace of God comes upon us by his lifting up, his face On us. The, the wonderful benediction at number six, so when he says, but I hope to see you shortly. And we shall speak face to face. And then he says, peace be to you. He says, you're gonna have to wait to see my face because we don't see the face of the Apostle, John by faith.

Faith isn't in the Apostle, John. So, John's actually gonna have to go to where the church, the place where Gaius is for them to be able to speak face to face, but then he doesn't have to wait guys, doesn't have to wait to see God's face. To see Christ's face.

Yes, there is a difference, there's a great gain in being absent from the body and present with with Christ and entering glory. And what we shall see, even with our eyes there. But as God is God, an infinite Eternal, and unchangeable in his being. Is. In every place as it were, and When, you know his peace.

You know, his face. Lifted upon you. This is what we desire, most of all for one another. Not just that we would have one another's piece. You know, surely John. Is wholehearted toward Gaius. And there is a peace. There is a Urene, which The the Greek that translates Shalom and although in in the Greek, Irania doesn't necessarily mean everything.

Shalom does in the Hebrew in a Biblical context? Shalom, the The whole posture of God being for someone in everything that we Need him to be is. What's behind the word arenae? The the piece in, in the New Testament. And so surely John is wholehearted towards Gaius as well.

And his piece would be to guide us, but it's not my piece to you. It's God's peace. That is Christ's peace, that he is especially Wishing to guide us, greeting guys, with, in verse 14, So, The Shining of God's face upon him, The lifting up of God's face.

Unto him. Is what? Wishing him here. And so, there's there's something in this. This greeting, this desire to see him face to face. Now, this affection that is so great that the this book of the Bible is actually shorter than it. Otherwise would have been. I had many things to write.

He says but under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the book gets abbreviated because of his The love that he has for him. And then the desire that he has for him, that he would God's smiling upon him. And then the The Delight that is expressed by True Believers.

Our friends. Greet. You, they have that. Delight in this opportunity. By John's writing this letter, there are others who Are delighted in the opportunity to Reconnect with Gaius even through just a little Clause at the end of the letter. And John also, delighted that Gaius can greet the friends that are there.

by name and John's behalf. so three big things here, one. That. we would have our love for other believers stirred up towards him from being In the family of God together number That our great desire for those whom we love would be that they know the lifting up of God's face to them that they would have the peace of God.

The Shalom. Of God in the Lord Jesus Christ. And then That we would take what opportunity we can to express. Our Delight in being connected to one another. So may the Lord give us. An affection, a union, an interaction, a fellowship that is born out of Being born of God.

may he give that to us with other believers? Let's pray. Lord, we ask that your spirit who pours out your love into our hearts. From you. Would also stir up in us. Love for one another. Love for our brothers and sisters in Christ. A desire that our brothers and sisters would know your smile.

Upon them. And give us Lord also, to take advantage of expressing our smile, as it were. Our enjoyment of and Delight in one another. Grant that your church on Earth, then would be known. By a love for one another. Doesn't just reflect, but comes from The love of Christ.

For us, your love for us in Christ. Do this in each of our hearts, in each of Our Lives, in this family, Do it for our church. We pray. Do it for your church more broadly, we ask in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.