

### 3John v5–8

#### Love and Labor from Christ for God

Thursday, September 5, 2024 • Read 3John v5–8

Questions from the Scripture text: What does John call Gaius in v5? For whom does he say he has done things? In what way has he acted when he did this? What have these brethren and strangers done in response (v6)? Before whom have they borne this witness? What is he to do now with the brethren that have come from John? In a manner worthy of Whom? Why have they gone forth (v7)? From whom have they received nothing? Who, then, ought to receive them (v8)? What do those who receive them become?

**Why should we help ministers and missionaries?** 3John v5–8 looks forward to the second serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **funding the work of missionaries and ministers is an act of love to which we are called by God.**

**Beloved.** For the second time, John calls Gaius "beloved." Although the apostle frequently uses this word with believers generally, it strikes as more intimate/personal when addressing just one man.

**Who has loved.** Gaius has a track record of loving others, so much so that visitors to the church where John is has borne witness of that love before the church (v6a). John identifies faith as the source of this love (v5, cf. Gal 5:6). It is from faith that he has done works for brothers and strangers.

**And is called to love.** Now, John sends these brothers back to Gaius on their way to more ministry. And John is asking that Gaius sponsor them not merely from generosity for brothers but as giving back to God (v6b). Those whom John is sending are doing the same thing themselves, not serving for the sake of money but for the sake of God's Name (v7b).

Gaius has an opportunity to support those sent by the apostle, for the work of the Lord, in the Name of the Lord. It is an opportunity to become a fellow-worker with them as they preach the truth (v8, cf. Rom 15:14; Php 4:14–17). Many who are not themselves sent by God may yet take opportunity, through giving, to become fellow workers with them. Loving in this way is not only an expression of personal godliness but a calling.

Who has shown you generosity for the sake of God? To whom have you shown this generosity? Whose ministries have you participated in by giving? What part has love had in this giving?

*Sample prayer: Father, thank You for granting us the opportunity to love Your Name, Your people, and Your work. Forgive us for cold-hearted indifference, stinginess, selfishness, and every other reason we would refrain from supporting the gospel ministry, and restore us to our first love, we as through Christ, AMEN!*

Suggested songs: ARP22D "All Ends of Earth Will Turn to Him" or TPH425 "How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place"

**"(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](http://hopewellarp.org))**

Third, John versus five through eight, these are God's words. Loved You Do Faithfully, whatever you do for the Brethren. And for strangers? Who have borne witness of your love before the church? If you send them forward on their journey in a manner, worthy of God, you will do well.

Because they went forth for his name's sake. Taking nothing from the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such. That we may become fellow workers. For the truth. And then so far the reading of gods inspired and inner tort Beloved here is singular. He's still talking. Just to Gaius. It's a little bit more intimate as a consequence.

It's one thing when he refers to. Uh, the church generally as his beloved, but he addresses it to this specific man. It is a little closer and a little more intimate in that way. And he wants to know he wants guys to know. From where? His service of the Brethren has come from, where his love for the Brethren has come and in fact, that service is referred to as love.

Because when he refers to it from verse 6, he says That they have borne witness of your love before the church. And what was that? Love that these people from Gaius's home church who have

What was that? Love that these people from Gaius's home Church of common bore witness. Of before the church. Which John is residing at the moment and from where he is writing, it is these things that he has done. Not only for these Brethren who have come and reported it, but even for strangers, And so these people from guys's church have come and John is now sending them back, he's got some mission for them to do.

And he's asking, guys. To continue taking care of them to be generous with them, not just hosting them when they come back to the home church. But especially sending them supporting their ongoing Mission. And so, the first thing that, The Apostle does in this short passage is identify undergarious or remind Gaius from where?

These actions of love for the Brethren. And for the strangers have come, when he says, beloved, you do Faithfully, the Gaius, it is from your faith. It's the same root in Greek. Just like we see the word in English. Although I'm not sure we connect it as much in English as we ought to, or at least as the Greek, does that when someone is being faithful, it's not just saying that he is the sort of person that you can trust.

But often this word is being used. In this case also, Um, that What they are doing or what kind of person they are, is a person who has faith and what they are doing, is coming from Faith. So the first thing he's doing is he's identifying four Gaius from whence his love and service have come.

And this would be a great encouragement about his past. It's come by faith, it's come by Christ. It's come by Union with Christ. Just as the Apostle said in verse 3, Truth is in. Uh, and when we remember that, anything good that actually comes out of us, any love that we genuinely have for the Brethren, or for strangers.

Any love that issues forth. Service of sacrifice and action for our brothers and sisters in the church. Whom we love as Christ has loved us and for our neighbors whom we are to love as we love ourselves that any genuine, good or love. That comes from us, comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

Comes from Christ himself by virtue of that Union that we have with him through faith. So this is very encouraging to him that the past. This is one of the reasons why In the church service. They would have had this testimony of these Brethren. Because the church service is not about how good Gaius is.

From whatever City guys is from. The church service is unto the praise of Christ, they have born witness of what Christ has done. And now he says, if you send them forward on their Journey in a manner, worthy of God, you will do well. And so not only is he saying your love and your service comes from Union with Christ.

But also your love and your service to Brethren and particularly Brethren. Is the ministry is unto the glory of God. What a great motivation. This is for us to do something. If we know that the doing of it comes out of our Union with Christ and therefore makes us to enjoy the fact that we are united to the Lord Jesus.

The Son of God by faith, the and Jesus is glorified by it. That's That's a great motivation and it is another great motivation. When we know that, the thing that we do is in the service of God and un Unto God's glory and for God's kingdom. And so he doesn't say that he should.

You should send them forward in a manner worth. Of the Saints. Although, that would be a A an appropriate thing to say, the Saints are due. Love and service, and generosity and Hospitality or even a manner that is worthy of me. Although guys and John are beloved to one another, and John is both an apostle of Jesus Christ, one of the foundation stones, as it were of the church, That Christ has appointed and an elder to the particular churches from which John is writing.

And To which John is sending this of which, John of which Gaius is A member, you could have. That send them forward on a their journey in a manner, worthy of me, but he has something even higher and greater because if you send them forward in a manner, worthy of God.

So Union with Christ is the source of his love and the service of God, and the honoring of God giving to God glorifying, God is the goal of his love. Because they went forth for seven because they went forth for his name's sake, receiving nothing from the Gentiles. From the Nations.

We therefore, Or to receive such. That we may become fellow workers. The truth. And so he's encouraging Gaius here. Who has been given an opportunity in God's promise? Sorry. Who has been given an opportunity in God's Providence to support these brothers? Uh, have apparently done much Ministry. Outside of the church, there are missionaries.

And yet. The ones to whom they have ministered among the Nations. Have not supported them and they are needy. And just like, The Spirit by the Apostle Paul says. To converted Believers that him who stole steel no longer, but let him work hard with his hands, so that he may have something to give.

Um, Uh, to a brother in time of need. Neediness is an opportunity when it comes to any brother but how much more neediness in the sit on? Part of a missionary or a minister of the Gospel. These workers for the truth. Gaius is not going out to the Nations and yet these who are going out to the Nations, having neediness are an opportunity for guys to become Verse 8 fellow workers.

A fellow worker for the truth. Even the Apostle John includes himself here. That when there are those who are being sent. As missionaries Ministers of the Gospel. Uh, the Apostle John who himself. Has been a worker for the truth for decades. He's been an apostle, an evangelist, an elder.

Pastor. And yet, he's still looking himself for opportunities. To be joined in a Ministry of the Gospel to become a fellow worker for the truth, and he has received them, and now he's sending them to Gaius. Him to receive them. And so, for us, Uh hey, we want to Do good to the Brethren.

Express the Life of Christ and the love of Christ from within us. We want to do things not just for believers, but especially to support the ministry of the Gospel. In a manner that is worthy, not merely of ministers, but of the Of the gospel. And we want to take our opportunities.

As we have them. Well, there is a needy Minister when there is a needy missionary, When there's an opportunity to support a They? A Ministry. It's being sent by the church. In this case, Uh by John and his office as Elder and so, probably the session of their church and so forth that when we have an opportunity to become a fellow worker, For the truth that we would take it.

And then, let's pray.

Our Father in Heaven, we ask for the help of your spirit that we would be mindful of our Union with Christ and therefore Mindful of opportunities to express it. To live. And to From out of that Union with him. We pray that you would keep us mindful of yourself and your glory that everything would we do?

Would be unto your glory. We ask that you would And give us opportunities and help us to recognize opportunities to participate. And the work of the truth. And supporting. To our workers for the truth. Thank you for this portion of your word. Please help us. Forgive us for How easily?

We. Are unmindful of spiritual things. But help us by your spirit. We ask in Jesus name, amen.