

What Kind of Church will CrossRoads Be? 3 John

Introduction:

1. As you look at the title of this message, I ask you this question: “What will be the determining factor in answering the question our title poses?”
2. It won't be determined by our buildings, our budgets, our literature, our Web site, or the programs we offer. The church is not the buildings. It is not the budget or the programs. The church is the people! The church is a living organism called “the body of Christ.”
 - In verse 9, John didn't mean, “I wrote unto the building.” You don't write letters to buildings. When he wrote a letter to the **church**; he wrote to **people!**
3. There are two central characters in this little book, and they stand in direct contrast.
 - **Gaius** – a godly man who loved the truth of God, and wanted others to hear it. He constantly helped God's messengers to get the truth out. He was a fellowhelper to the truth. vs. 5-8
 - **Diotrephes** – a selfish man who believed that everything revolved around him. He refused to help God's missionaries – he was anti-missionary. He was a hinderer of the truth. vs. 9-10
4. After telling us about both of these men, John writes in vs. 11, “*Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good...*” A personal decision must be made by each of us.
5. Will this church be known as a “Gaius” church? Or will we be known as a “Diotrephes” church? This will be determined by you and me – the people.
6. You have seen four families in the past four weeks that have a desire to go forth and spread God's truth to other parts of this world. What will be our attitude towards servants of God like this? You say, “I want to have the spirit of Gaius and be their fellowhelper.”
7. I hope this is your spirit and attitude. If it is, we need to understand that it will require two essential components from us.

First, it will require time.

1. I know that time is a precious commodity, but there is no way around it. If we are to be like Gaius and be fellowhelpers to the truth, it is going to take an investment of time.
2. Gaius was a man who took the time to help these Jewish missionaries that were trying to get the truth of God out. vs. 5-6
3. It appears from the text that Gaius would open up his home and provide resources for these men to be able to continue their mission work.
4. This took an investment of Gaius' time. He took time to help and encourage these missionaries, and in doing so he was a fellowhelper to the truth. vs. 8

- Sometimes our actions don't match our words, do they? We say we want to be fellowhelpers to the truth, but how much time are we investing to do it?
5. When you take the time to help and encourage a missionary by praying for him, reading his prayer letters, sending an e-mail, taking him out to eat, having him in your home, sending him a care package, sending a birthday card – you become a fellowhelper to the truth.
 6. But, it is going to take some of your time. It has to be a priority. We make time for what is important to us.

Second, it will require helpers.

1. The word “fellowhelpers” in verse 8 gives the idea of partnership. It is from the Greek word from which we get our English word “synergy.” It means “two things working together that accomplish more than if they were working individually.”
 - It carries the idea that if your friend needs to dig a ditch, you don't just help by handing him a shovel. You get down in the ditch with him by his side and help dig. You are now a fellowhelper!
2. Gaius received and helped those who were going out to preach God's truth. In doing so, he was helping the truth itself. When you help a missionary, you are literally helping the truth itself. You are a fellowhelper with it. God is pleased and says you do well. vs. 6
3. Are you a fellowhelper? You say, “But Pastor Dan, what can I do?” Let me give you a few suggestions:
 - **Prayer support** – God may even use you to mobilize some prayer meetings focusing on praying for specific requests from our missionaries. Ephesians 6:18a-20
 - **Logistical support** – You become a tool through which you provide services and equipment to our missionaries. Some of you could do amazing things with this. **Example:** Organization that provides vehicles; organization that helps to ship belongings; Aquila, Priscilla, and Justus – all helped Paul at Corinth; etc.
 - **Financial support** – Some of you are really good at making money. You need to be using this to help God's truth get out. Philippians 4:15-18 – “*wellpleasing to God*”
 - **Correspondence support** – You can send letters, e-mails, updates, birthday cards, help with distributing prayer letters, etc.
 - **Moral support** – You can send care packages of things they can't get on the mission field. Just knowing that somebody cares will lift their spirits more than you'll ever know.
4. There is no way that our missionaries can successfully accomplish their mission without humble, behind-the-scenes helpers who are holding the ropes for them.
5. God desires for you to use the specific gifts and abilities that you possess to help get the truth out. For example, you could go on a missions trip and help to provide a construction team, or a VBS team, or a music team, or a medical team, or organize a women's conference, men's conference, teen retreat, etc.

6. Will CrossRoads be a Gaius church or a Diotrephes church? It depends on us, the people. Will you help? Will you give of your time?
7. Let's be fellowhelpers to the truth. What will it take?