

## **1:1 *The Elder and Gaius***

### **The Theme of the Letter.**

Andreas: John writes this letter to encourage some fellow believers. He writes to Gaius and testifies to his great hospitality, which he praises. He says that someone who does such good is from God. He goes on to tell him to expel Diotrephes, who has not learned to do the same thing. He also praises Demetrius for doing the same as Gaius and mentions his faith as a testimony to his virtue. His main purpose for writing is the same as it was in his second letter. Catena.<sup>1</sup>

### **Love in the Truth.**

Oecumenius: The person who loves God with heartfelt charity loves in the truth, a point which John often makes in his other letters. Commentary on 3 John.<sup>4</sup>

## **1:2 *Things Are Going Well***

### **Well with Your Soul.**

Hilary of Arles: Things are going well for Gaius because his soul is carrying on in good works as the will of his mind directs him. Introductory Commentary on 3 John.<sup>5</sup>

### **Living According to the Truth.**

Oecumenius: Gaius is doing well, says John, because he is living according to the truth of the gospel. Commentary on 3 John.<sup>7</sup>

## **1:3 *Following the Truth***

### **The Truth of Your Life.**

Hilary of Arles: The truth of Gaius's life was seen in the perfection of his works. He was a man who went about without any guile in thought, word or deed. Instead of that, he followed the commandments of God to the best of his ability. Introductory Commentary on 3 John.<sup>8</sup>

## **You Follow the Truth.**

Oecumenius: Gaius is walking in the truth because he is following the gospel in all its pure simplicity. To walk does not mean to put one foot in front of the other but to make orderly spiritual progress within the limits of what the soul is able to bear. This is something which very few people manage to achieve. Commentary on 3 John.<sup>9</sup>

## **1:4 *Hearing That My Children Follow the Truth***

### **1:5 *Hospitality to Strangers***

### **1:6 *Your Love for the Church***

#### **As Befits God's Service.**

Hilary of Arles: Visitors praised Gaius to the rest of the church because of his generous hospitality to those who were in God's service. Introductory Commentary on 3 John.<sup>12</sup>

### **1:7 *Serving Christ***

#### **Accepting Nothing from Unbelievers.**

Hilary of Arles: This means that the servants of God have accepted no assistance from those who are not believers. Introductory Commentary on 3 John.<sup>13</sup>

### **1:8 *We Ought to Support Such Persons***

#### **Look for Needs.**

Andreas: John teaches us that we should not wait for such needy people to come to us but should rather go out and look for them, for that is what Lot and Abraham did. Catena.<sup>16</sup>