



June 7, 2020

Discussion Guide

Face the Issue:

This week, Rodney spoke to us about being self disciplined and obedient in our walk with God. One of the points that he made was about showing hospitality to all.

In Biblical times, there were very few inns or places that would take in travelers. The evangelists and teachers that would travel from town to town depended upon the local believers to take them into their homes. Their hospitality was one of the clearest testimonies of their love for the brethren and obedience to God. The same is true for us today.

When is showing hospitality difficult?

How have you benefited from someone extending hospitality to you?

Into the Word

Read 3 John.

Following his introduction (v. 1), John's teaching on hospitality centers around his messages to or about the three people that he mentions:

- Gaius, whom he counsels and encourages (vv. 1-8, 11)
- Diotrephes, whom he condemns (vv. 9-10)
- Demetrius, whom he praises (v. 12)

Note the emphasis on loving someone "in the truth". Why must our love for fellow Christians be bound by the bond of truth?

Why is Gaius an especially good example for us to follow in the Christian life (vv. 2-4)?

How are both love and faithfulness demonstrated in Christian hospitality (vv. 5-6)?

What does it mean for us to show hospitality "in a manner worthy of God" (v. 6)?

Why do you think Christian workers are to look to Christians for support and not to non-Christians (vv. 7-8)?

How are the actions of Diotrephes consistent with his true heart's desire (vv. 9-10)?

If we desire to be first, how will that conflict with our ability to be loving?

In contrast to Diotrephes, Demetrius was "well spoken of by everyone" (v. 12). If those who know you best were asked about your love and hospitality, what might they say?