

## Gaius the Generous

3 John 1-8

- I. **The significance of a good reputation (3 John 1-4)**
  - A. Love: John greets Gaius by expressing his Christian love for Him (1)
  - B. Prosperity: John tells Gaius that He prays for his physical prosperity because he knows of his spiritual prosperity (2).
    - God controls our blessings, but we can pray for the healthy and success of someone who is growing spiritually.
    - Pray with a spiritual priority regardless of a person's physical need or desire.
  - C. Joy: John commends Gaius for obeying God's truth because nothing brings him greater joy (3-4).
    - We will be most committed to that which brings us the most joy.
- II. **The value of a generous heart (3 John 5-8)**
  - A. John commends Gaius' hospitality and generosity of traveling ministers (5-6)
    1. Hospitality means reaching out beyond those we already know (5).
    2. Hospitality means sacrificing personal convenience and financial resources (6).
  - B. John explains how hospitality and generosity makes us partners with God (7-8).
    1. We are serving God when we help those who serve God (7).
    2. We are actual partners in every ministry we support (8).