

Sermon Handout

Your Spiritual Health

III John 1-4

I. Gaius the Beloved One

- a. Who was Gaius?
 - i. *cf.* Acts 19:29; 20:4; I Cor 1:14; Rom 16:23
 - ii. We don't know!
- b. "Well loved . . . whom I truly love" v. 1
 - i. 3 more times John addresses him this way vv. 2, 5, 11
 - ii. Paul also uses the term Rom 16:12; Phile 1; Rom 16:5, 8, 9
 - iii. Paul calls Timothy his "beloved son" I Tim 1:2

II. True Love

- a. The idiom used by John
 - i. II Jn 1 "Whom I truly love" (as do others)
 - ii. Jn 17:19 different words, same construction ("truly sanctified")
- b. I Cor 13:4-8a Genuine Christian love:
 - i. Bears, believes, hopes & endures all manner of situations v. 7
 - ii. Is patient & kind v. 4a
 - iii. Is not envious or prideful v. 4b
 - iv. Is not rude or selfish or irritable v. 5
 - v. Is lasting, not temporary v. 8a
- c. The testimony of "the brothers" v. 3
 - i. You (Gaius) have the truth in you
 - ii. You live out the truth in your behavior
 1. Toward fellow believers
 2. Toward "strangers" (visitors)

III. John's Great Joy

- a. "Walking in truth" = loving as Christ loved
- b. Jesus commanded that we love one another Jn 13:33-35
 - i. Jn 15:12; I Jn 4:21; I Jn 2:7-11; Lev 19:18 *cf.* II Jn 1:5
 - ii. Rom 12:10; 13:8ff; Gal 5:14; Eph 5:2
 - iii. I Pet 1:22
- c. Christian elders are called to love their flocks truly (as John did)
- d. All believers are called to love each other above themselves I Jn 2:10-11
A more intense love required than articulated in Lev 19:18.