

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

3 John 11-15

Imitate What Is Good

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Identify and Imitate the Good

3 John 11a (NASB)
Beloved, do not **imitate** what is evil,
but what is good.

- “Beloved” is *agape_tos* an adjective
- “Imitate” is negated imperative applied to “evil” but gives imperative force to “good”
- The Greek has “the evil” and “the good” which are *kakos* and *agathos* (adjectives)
- We must know the difference!!

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**Knowing God Is Incompatible
With Evil**

3 John 11b (NASB)
The one who does good is of God; the
one who does evil has **not seen God**.

- Christians will allow themselves to be corrected (unlike Diotrephes vss 9, 10)
- “Not seen God” means “to not have a saving knowledge of God” (1Jn 3:6)
- This is an antithetical parallelism

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Valid Biblical Apostles Are True

3 John 12 (NASB)

Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself; and we add our testimony, and **you know that our testimony is true.**

- Diotrefes rejected apostolic truth
- True apostles were appointed personally by Christ and have no successors
- We must identify who teaches the truth

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John Invokes a Greeting

3 John 13-15 (NASB)

I had many things to write to you, but I am not willing to write them to you with pen and ink; but I hope to see you shortly, and we will speak face to face. **Peace be to you.** The friends greet you. **Greet the friends by name.**

- "Peace" is a Hebrew greeting (shalom)
- "you" is singular so this is spoken directly to Gaius to give to each "friend"

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Implications and Applications

- We are to do good to show what true faith looks like
- To imitate the good we must be able to define what it is
- True friends of Jesus believe and obey Him

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Christians Should Do Good

1 Peter 2:15 (ESV)

For this is the will of God, that **by doing good** you should **put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.**

- The context (2:13-14) is about respecting those in civil government
- “For this” is literally “because thusly”
- The unbelieving world accuses of being evil doers but by doing good they are “muzzled”

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Flee From Idol Service!

1 Corinthians 10:13b 14 (NASB)

God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide **the way of escape** also, so that you will be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, **flee from idolatry.**

- Idolatry is *eido_lolatría* which means “idol service”
- “Latria” = how God is to be worshipped

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We Are Saved Out of the World

John 15:19 (NASB)

“If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.”

- “World” is *‘kosmos’* and here means the world in its sinful alienation from God
- We are NOT the world if we know Christ!
- Failure to define terms confuses everyone

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God’s Saving Love

John 20:2 (NASB)

So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple **whom Jesus loved**, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

1 John 4:10 (NASB)

In this is love, **not that we loved God, but that He loved us** and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

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Love One Another

John 15:12, 13 (NASB)

“This is **My commandment**, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”

- Jesus calls His followers “friends”
- Jesus laid down His life so that we can be true friends of His and one another

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