THIS IS LOVE

THE 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD LETTERS OF JOHN

Life

Theology

Practice

Community Safeguards
November 15th 2025

Sermon Notes

COMMUNITY SAFEGUARDS: 3 JOHN

In John's third letter:

- John is writing to a specific _____, Gaius, from a specific _____.

The Irony of 3 John:

- The situation with Diotrephes is exactly what John was trying to help the church _____.
  - *If you remove the life that Christ lived from the metric of Christianity, the result will be actions that are _____-_____.*

John's simple message to the church: Love one _____.

- As _____ loves, you love.
- Harmful and malicious gossip is _____ loving.

Diotrophes mistake:

- The idol of _____ prompted him to reject the most fundamental teaching in all of Christianity: **God has incarnated Himself so no one or nothing else in your life would need to.**

Summary of 3rd John (Our One Thing):

- If you _____ in Jesus, your life should _____ His inherent goodness.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

-1 John 4:10

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Life

1. If you had to do an impersonation, who would it be of? (Bonus points if you actually perform it!).

2. What is the most convincing scam, impersonation, or suspicious message you have ever received?

3. Who has been an example of genuine authenticity in your life?

Theology

4. **Read 3 John 1-8.** What, if anything, strikes you about the way John addresses Gaius in these opening verses?

5. **Read 3 John 9-10.** What does Diotrephes' desire "to be first" produce in his relationships and leadership? How can a desire for authority become an idol, even among a church?

6. How does 3 John shape our understanding of **goodness**?

7. What does the incarnation teach us about how God exercises power?

Practice

8. The sermon suggests that something is always trying to "incarnate" itself through our lives. What attitude, desire, habit, or wound has been becoming visible through you lately?

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LifeGroup Questions