



3 John - Sending missionaries *in a manner worthy of God*

1. vv. 1–4 — What does John rejoice about?

What has Gaius been doing that gives John such joy? What does this tell us about the relationship between **truth and practical Christian obedience**?

2. vv. 5–6 — What exactly had Gaius done for the travelling missionaries?

Look carefully at the language John uses: “*faithful... whatever you do... for these brothers and sisters, strangers as they are.*”

What does this suggest about the importance of **hospitality and practical support** in Christian mission?

CASE STUDY:

A Syrian believer, Abdul Jaffar, who has been kicked out of his family home in Manchester because he's become a Christian comes to our church. He's partially sighted from birth and so has limited employment opportunities. Jaffar does street outreach in UK cities and moves on every few weeks. He has started getting threats, and one attempted stabbing. Some charities regard him as an Islamophobe and a troublemaker. He asks if anyone could provide him with a room, and he has trouble accessing universal credit, but he's a faithful and bold evangelist. Mission societies don't quite know how to handle him, because he speaks limited

*English but he has memorised large portions of the Arabic Bible and he is encouraging many – but making some feel uncomfortable.
How will MRC respond?*

3. v6 — What does it mean to send someone “in a manner worthy of God”?

What might this look like beyond simply giving someone money for their journey? What would make our sending genuinely worthy of God?

4. v7 — Why had these missionaries gone out?

John says they had gone out “**for the sake of the Name**” and had accepted nothing from the Gentiles. What does this teach us about their motivation and dependence on the Christian churches?

5. v8 — What responsibility does John place on the churches?

“Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.”

How can people who never leave Britain nevertheless become “**fellow workers**” in gospel mission?

6. vv9–10 — What was Diotrephes doing differently?

How did his attitude towards missionaries and fellow Christians contrast with Gaius's? Have you met anyone like Diotrpehes? What dangers arise when **control, status or self-interest** begins to shape a church's approach to mission?

7. MRC has historically been a sending church. What does 3 John say we should value when we send people out?

Think practically: prayer, financial support, encouragement, communication, hospitality when they return, and taking an interest in their actual gospel work.

How well do we know our ministry partners? ([see webpage](#))

Are there ways we could become better “fellow workers for the truth”?