

University Heights Baptist Church

Ambassador's Class.
Loving, Growing, Sharing

24 July 2011

Andy on Life

(Andy's English Valet)

INTRODUCTION

When have you been exposed to other cultures or lifestyles?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read 3 John 1-8

Note: Keep in mind that there were no hotels in John's day, only inns that were uncomfortable and often dangerous. Traveling evangelists depended on the saints for food and lodging. Gaius was the kind of Christian who loved to entertain the saints and "bring them forward" as they went from place to place. ¹ Hospitality is equally stressed in the New Testament. The general Jewish cultural view of hospitality underlies Jesus' charge to the seventy in Luke 10:4-7. ²

1. How did John find out about Gaius' good deeds? Vv 3-4 What are some good and bad aspects of second hand compliments?
2. What did Gaius do?
3. What is the value of getting to know "strangers - other cultures and living conditions? Vs. 5
4. What is "the Name" in verse 7? Matt 6:9; Rom 1:5; Act 5:41; 9:15-16
5. Why didn't the missionaries accept support from the people to whom they were ministering? Vs 7
6. Why do Christians support missionaries? 1 Tim 5:17-18

APPLICATION

What can you do to "walk in the truth"? Vs 3; 1 Pet 1:22

Jesus is the truth; those who believe have dwelling within them the truth revealed in Jesus; it is not an inert principle; and there is a Spirit of Truth within the believer interpreting the Truth: This Spirit bears witness on behalf of Jesus; and the Spirit does this in and through Christians (John 15:26-27). Missionaries who "set out for the sake of the Name" are allowing the truth that is within them to find a voice and are the instruments of the Spirit of Truth. By helping them as an act of love, Christians like Gaius are coworkers of the truth.^{33 3}

Hospitality was not merely a cultural obligation, but even more a Christian duty. It is one very necessary and practical expression of the love that should mark the fellowship of believers (cf. John 13:34-35). In Romans 12:13 Paul wrote that believers are to be "practicing hospitality," while Peter exhorted, "Be hospitable to one another without complaint" (1 Peter 4:9). The writer of Hebrews commanded his readers, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Heb. 13:2). In 1 Timothy 5:10 Paul listed hospitality as one of the virtues of a godly Christian woman. Elders in particular are required to be hospitable as one of the exemplary qualifications for that office (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8). Hospitality was also a significant responsibility because the home was central to the life of the early church. ⁴

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1997). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (782). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

^{2 4} MacArthur, J. (2007). *1, 2, 3 John : MacArthur NT Commentary* (243). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

³³ Brown, *Epistles of John*, 715.

³ Akin, D. L. (2001). *Vol. 38: 1, 2, 3 John* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (245). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.