

"The Value of Connecting!"

The elder,

To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth. Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God. It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth.

3 John 1-8

We need each other to have a deeply formed life. We won't **grow** spiritually if we don't **connect** relationally, building healthy relationships that point to Jesus.

How can we be loving friends like Gaius?

1. Keep growing in Christ.

I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. V. 2

a. Walk in the truth.

...some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. V. 3

b. Understand you are loved.

To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth. V. 1

2. Pursue Joy.

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. V. 4

a. Seek to refresh others.

May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. 2 Timothy 1:16

b. Direct others to Jesus.

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah." John 1:41

3. Show up consistently.

Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. V. 5

a. Care deeply.

They have told the church about your love. V. 6a

b. Initiate connection.

Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God. V. 6b

4. Don't give up.

We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth. V. 8

a. Connection is God's design.

It was for the sake of the Name that they went out. V. 7

b. There is nothing better.

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. 1 Corinthians 12:26

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