

The welcome verse for this week is Colossians 3:15, “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”



## People of Love and Truth 3 John

**The Bottom Line:** The testimony of the church is built on the testimony of its people.

### **Introduction:**

Today’s message could be a bit controversial.

In western society, we have this temptation to be careless about what others think or say about us.

As ambassadors for Christ, it is important that we represent Christ well in our faith but also in our conduct.

While church may seem like a safe space, we must understand that church can be packed with wolves and carnal, fleshly human beings.

### **Tension:**

We want to believe the best about everyone who sits with us in church, but just because they are in church does not mean they are in the Kingdom.

### **Truth:**

When filled with people of love and truth, the local church becomes the most beautiful place on this side of eternity. When filled with carnality, it becomes a spiritually dangerous space. Unfortunately, many local churches have some of both.

John describes three different types of people in the church.

**Read 3 John.**

1. Someone who encourages (Gaius).

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2. Someone to avoid (Diotrephes).

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3. Someone to emulate (Demetrius).

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**Application & Conclusion:**

The testimony of the church depends on the testimony of its people. Sometimes walking in truth requires calling the wanderer back to truth. Hold your brothers and sisters accountable and bless those who walk in integrity.

Our temptation is often to scope the room and decide who each message is for. Here is today's final question: What role do you play at South Bay?

**Discussion questions for group this week:**

1. **What does this teach me about God?**

**2. What does this teach me about me?**

**3. How do I apply this to my life?**

**4. If I could ask a question about this it would be....**