

# To Live is Christ

21 For to me, to live is Christ.

Philippians 1:21 NKJV

FCI Faith Group Program

May 28, 2023

## 3 JOHN SERIES – A PASTORAL MESSAGE FOR THE CHURCH

- This book speaks of the heart of a pastor and the heart of Jesus for the church. It is important because it is about what is important to Jesus – the church.
- The church – we are the called out ones. Blood bought. Believers of the Lord Jesus Christ. In union with Christ. How much are we in union? The Holy Spirit is residing in us. We are the Body of Christ. The Bride of Christ. Comprised of the children of God. *Kay dapat lang talaga na alagaan ng pastor.*
- *Ang puso at isipan ni Jesus, church pa rin*, His concern is for the church. In the Book of Revelation, church pa rin ang pinasulatan ni Jesus (letters to the 7 churches).
- Even Paul's letters are for the churches. *Yan ang puso ni Paul, kasi yan din ang puso ni Kristo.*
- **3 John 1:5-11** (Note: read also in The Passion Translation or TPT) – This book is written personally to Gaius. John is coaching Gaius to receive these workers to become fellow workers for the truth.
- **2 kinds of people as mentioned by John:**
- **1. Supportive and Active**
- Gaius supported these workers. His love was seen by the brethren. John was coaching him to send them in a way worthy of God (send them well-off, treated well, supplied and well taken care of).
- The support of the gospel should always come from believers never from unbelievers.
- Why? Because we are the ones who have been saved by the gospel, the power of God unto salvation.
- Declare: "I am a fellow worker for the truth."
- We are fellow workers for the truth when we sow seeds for the work of the gospel.
- This is the grace of God in you working through you.
- It is Christ in you doing the work when you support the ministry. It is not you working for God. The truth is God is working in us and through us.
- Paul said in **1 Corinthians 15:10**, "but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." *Kapag ganito, walang pagod, walang kayabangan*, all glory to God.
- We just echo Jesus Christ, do it just like Him (I only speak and do as the Father says/does) for apart from God we are really nothing.
- *Marami kang magagawa dahil sa biyaya ng Diyos.* You will do wonders because of the grace of God.
- We know what the result of Gaius' sowing will be, it will be a great harvest: 1) Whatever he sowed, that he will reap (**Galatians 6:7**); 2) Refreshed and supported workers of the Gospel; 3) Whatever Gaius sowed, others benefitted as well – Harvest of many souls.
- These are good works aligned to the finished work of Jesus.
- We are to receive such workers that we might be fellow workers for the truth.
- **2. The Distracting and Destructive**
- They want preeminence or superiority. Are they believers? *Di ka sure...*
- They are sowing discord, strife, disagreement, division sa church.
- The work of the Holy Spirit is to bring unity in the church.
- These people work against the work of the Holy Spirit. They are contrary to the Holy Spirit.
- We, who have peace, can easily detect them. They bring the opposite of what the Holy Spirit brings.
- The Holy Spirit brings comfort, unity. While these people bring confusion, bitterness against the pastor. They are under an oppressing spirit.
- If you question the authority of the Pastor, you are questioning the authority of Jesus because He placed them there.

- Prating – talking stupidly or foolishly against the authority.
- How to identify a sheep or goat or wolf in the church?
- Jesus said, “My sheep know and hear my voice.” – *Ang sheep maamo, nakikinig sa pastor, di kinontra ang pastor or agreeable to the pastor, kung anong ipakain, kinakain according to the Word (green pasture).*
- Jesus is our Good Shepherd, He is the Chief Shepherd. He placed the pastor or undershepherd (His assistant) to each flock.
- Goat – *nanunuwag ng pastor, kumakain kahit hindi parte ng flock, kumakain din sa iba, maski ano kinakain.*
- Wolf – *nangangagat ng sheep at undershepherd/pastor, nakakapanakit, they bring fear not peace, division not unity, nananangay ng sheep.*
- You cannot impose on the Pastor on what to teach on the pulpit.
- *May tupa ba na nangunguna sa sheperd?*  
Of course not! The shepherd leads the sheep.
- Pastors only teach what Jesus wants them to teach.
- This is important to know so you are not led astray.
- Accept the teaching and authority of the pastor.
- Ex. Miriam and Aaron who spoke against Moses in **Numbers 12:1-2**. God does not touch His anointed (Aaron), He honors His anointed, but Miriam had leprosy. Praise God we are not under the law!
- *Ang FCI ay maayos na church. Maganda na church. We are well fed, edified, busog lusog ang mga members. Anointed church!*
- Yes, *may grupo-grupo* but it is only according to people’s preference. *Pero lahat ay nag-iibigan, nagre respetuhan, nagpapatawaran.*
- Church, you are loved. Jesus sends someone physically (a pastor) to lead you to green pastures. He wants you to be taken care of until He returns.

***Church, we are fellow workers for the truth when we sow seeds for the work of the gospel.***

***This is the grace of God in us working through us.***

***Marami tayong magagawa dahil sa biyaya ng Diyos. So keep on sowing and showing your love and support, declare: “I am a fellow worker for the truth.”***

***Moreover, as a sheep, accept the teaching and authority of the pastor for Jesus placed them in charge of the flock. He leads us to green pastures through the pastor because He wants us taken care of until He returns.***

***Church, we are loved by Jesus!***