

3 John

3 John

1-4, Greeting

- 1, Correspondents
- 2, Blessing
- 3-4, Thanksgiving

5-12, Body

- 5-8, Welcome visitors
- 9-11, Censure Diotrephes
- 12, Welcome Demetrius

13, Closing

- How did early churches maintain their relations with one another?
- How did they resolve differences in the first century?
- What principles does the last living apostle give for their interaction with one another now?
- Contrast Diotrephes' motive for his actions, and his true motive as the Spirit reveals it to John.
- How can we avoid the error of Diotrephes in our gathering?

Assemblies and their Hosts in 2, 3 John



The Lady

How are they organized?

- 1) 3 John 1:8 Welcome visiting believers
- 2) 2 John 1:9 Discern doctrinal errors
- 3) 3 John 1:9-10 Watch out for pride
- 4) 3 John 1:12 Introduce your brothers



Gaius



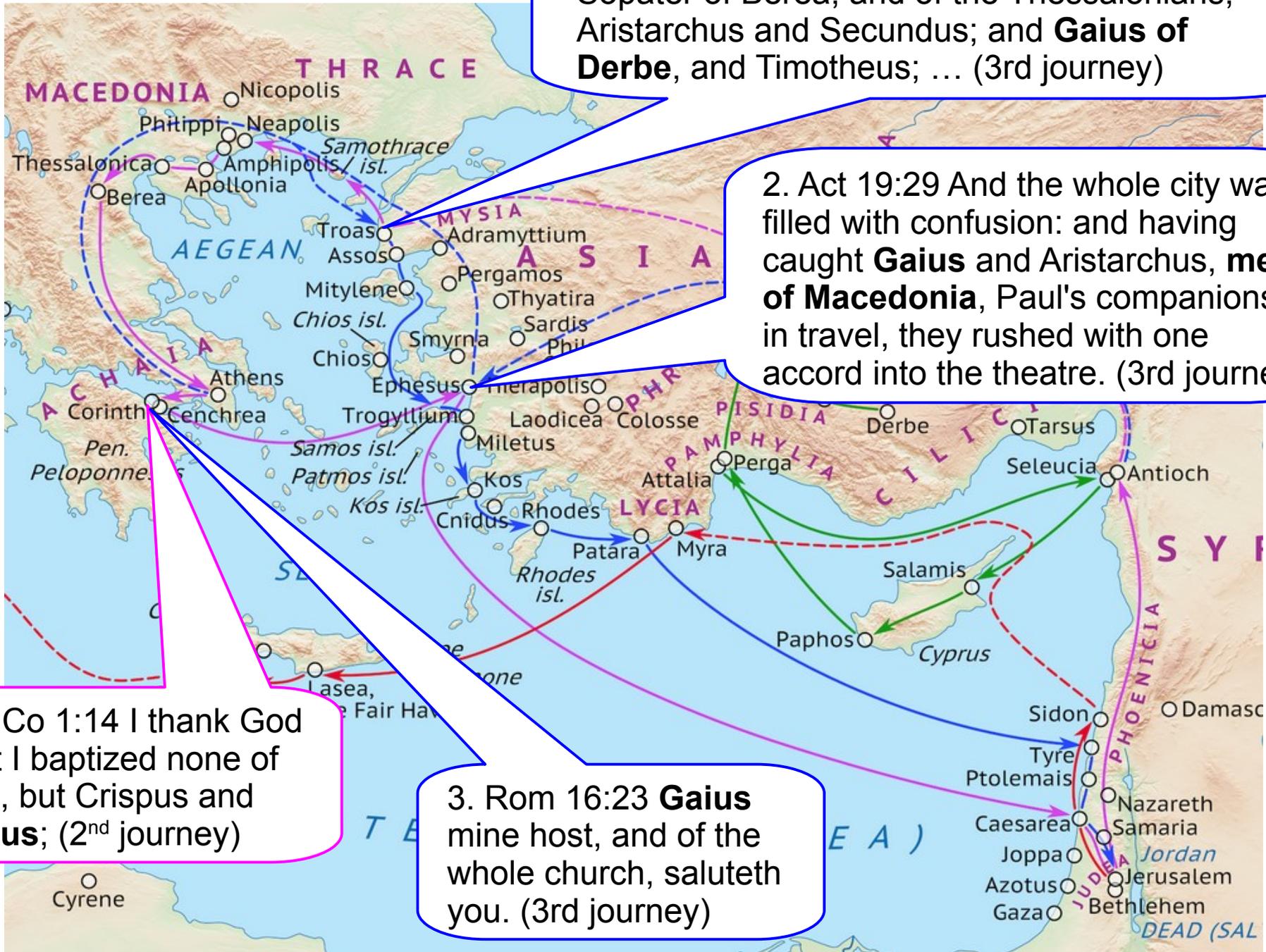
The Elder



Diotrephes

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Where's Gaius?



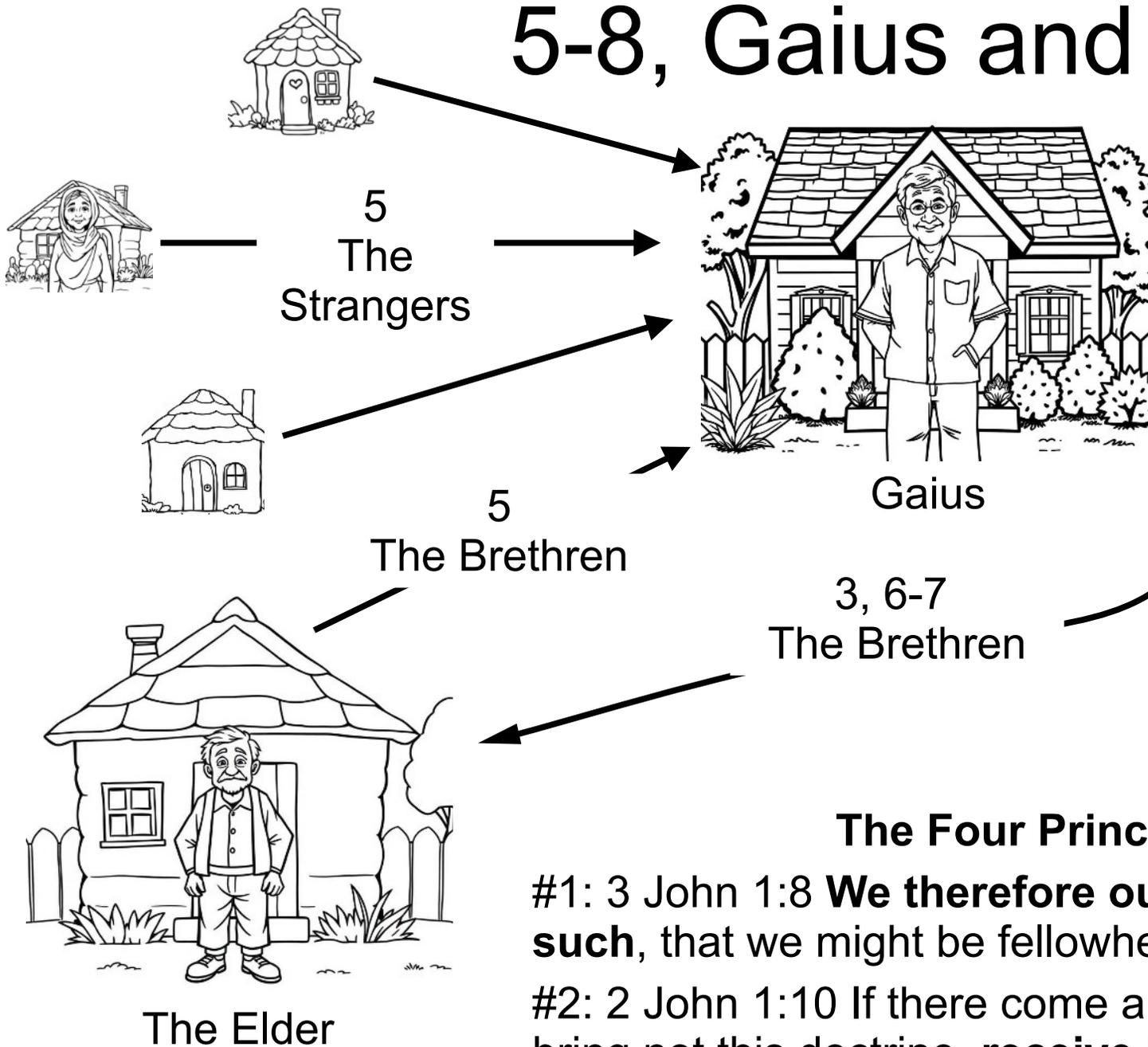
4. Act 20:4 And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and **Gaius of Derbe**, and Timotheus; ... (3rd journey)

2. Act 19:29 And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught **Gaius** and Aristarchus, **men of Macedonia**, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre. (3rd journey)

1. 1Co 1:14 I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and **Gaius**; (2nd journey)

3. Rom 16:23 **Gaius** mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. (3rd journey)

5-8, Gaius and his Visitors



v. 2a prosper
and be in health
1Cor. 16:2 Upon
the first day of the
week let every
one of you lay by
him in store, as
God hath
prospered him,
that there be no
gatherings when I
come.

The Four Principles

#1: 3 John 1:8 **We therefore ought to receive such**, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

#2: 2 John 1:10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, **receive him not** into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.



3 John 5-7

King James Version

5 Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

6 Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

7 Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

What type of service should we give to both brethren and strangers?

What service may we do well in, according to John in verse six?

Bilson Peters
12/13/2025



3 John 9-10

9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

Why was John's writing not accepted in the church of which Diotrephes was .
What was Diotrephes' attitude toward his fellow Christians?

Bilson Peters
12/13/2025

The Error of Diotrephes



The Elder

9
Letter

10
The Brethren



Diotrephes

The Four Principles

#3: 3 John 1:9-10, Watch Out for Pride

Apostolic Authority

1Jn 4:6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

1Co 14:37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

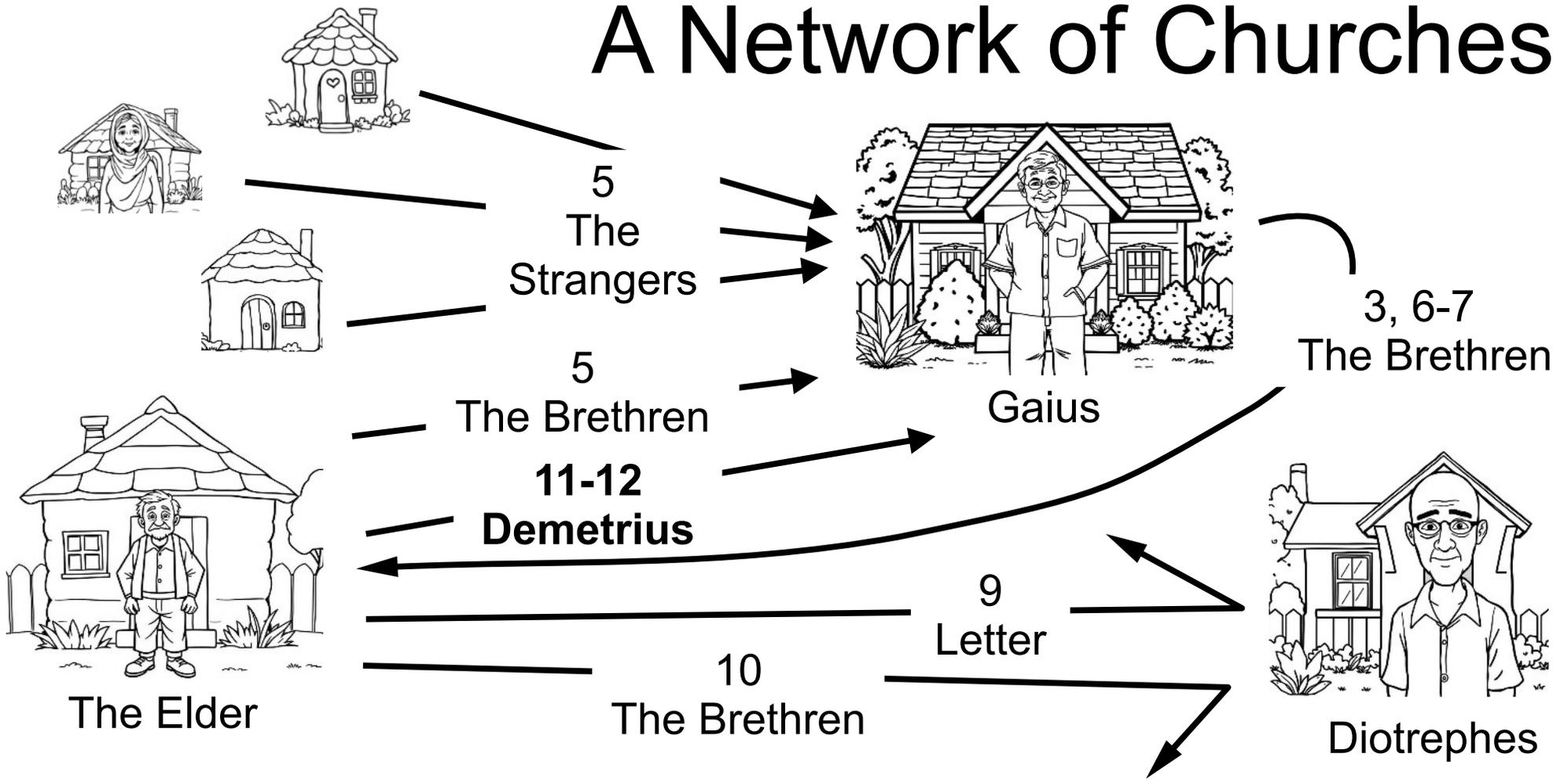
10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds ...

2Co 13:1 This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established. 2 I told you before [1 Cor 4:18-20], and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now I write to them which heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that, **if I come again, I will not spare:**

Tit 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both **to exhort and to convince** the gainsayers.

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A Network of Churches



The Four Principles

3 John 1:8 Welcome visiting believers

2 John 1:9 Discern doctrinal errors

3 John 1:9-10 Watch out for pride

3 John 1:12 Introduce your brothers