

Won't You Be My Neighbor? Open Doors, Open Hearts

Andy Deane · 01/12/25 · 3 John 1-15

How would you respond if starting this week an uninvited guest knocked at your door at inconsistent times, multiple times a week? Would you let them in once? Would you let it continue? Would it bother you?

WHY SHOULD WE BE HOSPITABLE? (Reasons from 3 John 1-15)

3 John 1-4, 1 The elder, To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth. 2 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. 3 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. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

Hospitality Builds the Deep Relationships we Crave

- Relationships that lead to real love.
- Relationships that hold each other up in prayer.
- Relationships that strengthen our faithfulness.

"Hospitality is about meeting the need for community in a lonely and broken world. It begins with the family of God, knitting hearts together & building relationships that are strong enough to bear the weight of truth & love."
— Rosaria Butterfield (*The Gospel Comes with a House Key*)

"Sharing meals together is one of the most profoundly Christian things we can do. It expresses our shared identity as the family of God and fosters the community Christ intended."
— Tim Chester (*A Meal with Jesus: Discovering Grace, Community, and Mission around the Table*)

3 John 5-8, 5 Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. 6 They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God. 7 It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. 8 We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth.

Hospitality Propels the Gospel Forward

- Propel the gospel with a hospitable heart everywhere: Romans 15:7
- Propel the gospel with your home.
- Propel the gospel by supporting kingdom workers: 1 Samuel 30:21-25

"Christian hospitality is treating outsiders like insiders and making them feel welcome & valued for Christ's sake."
— John Piper

"Radically ordinary hospitality is this: using your Christian home in a daily way that seeks to make strangers neighbors, and neighbors family of God."
— Rosaria Butterfield (*The Gospel Comes with a House Key*)

"Meals bring mission into the ordinary. You don't have to become some expert in apologetics or theology. You just have to eat with other people."
— Tim Chester (*A Meal with Jesus: Discovering Grace, Community, and Mission around the Table*)

3 John 9-10, 9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us. 10 So when I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, spreading malicious nonsense about us. Not satisfied with that, he even refuses to welcome other believers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.

Hospitality Reveals the Heart's True Priorities

- A idolatrous heart is too full for hospitality.
- A transformed heart overcomes obstacles to hospitality: 1 Peter 4:9

3 John 11-15, *11 Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God. 12 Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone—and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true. 13 I have much to write to you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. 14 I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. 15 Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name.*

Hospitality Follows the Footsteps of the Faithful

- Follow examples (that inspire hospitality).
- Follow Scripture (that commands hospitality).
- Follow patterns (that increase face to face hospitality): Romans 12:13

FIVE WAYS TO LIVE OUT TODAY'S BIBLE TRUTH:

- Based on what we learned, is there a consistent version of hospitality you can aim implement?
- Text BOOK to (951)425-4425 to order the book: The Simplest Way To Change The World
- Text LUNCH to (951)425-4425 to join the Deane Family for lunch at our house on a Sunday after church.
- Text BLESS to (951)425-4425 to read up on the B.L.E.S.S. acronym - a simple reminder for reaching neighbors.
- Visit cornerstone.org/neighbor to learn 100 ways to meet your neighbors, or about our "rentable outreach kits".