

Cornerstone Church

April 9, 2017

Sermon Series: Practicing Our Readiness Drills for Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and 2nd Peter

Today's Sermon: Let's Bring Back the Lost Practice of Hospitality (A One-Sunday Parenthesis Sermon)

Today's Passage: 1 Peter 4:1-6

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

Introduction:

Main Point: The biblical command to practice (**show**) hospitality has a huge potential for strengthening our church and for reaching our friends and neighbors with the gospel.

For Strengthening the Church

1. The Bible says that we are to be closer to one another than the closest of family members.
 - The terms *brother, brethren, sister, occur* 250 times in the New Testament.
 - Our closeness as a spiritual family means:

- We are to greet one another with a holy kiss (Romans 16:16) or at least a holy hug.
- We are to be in one another's homes (where the early church met to worship) Romans 16:5.
- We are to share our material possessions with one another (Acts 2:44-45)
- We are to eat together 1 Corinthians 11:20ff
- We are, when necessary to discipline errant members 1 Corinthians 5:6
- We are to care for our widows (Acts 6:1-6)
- And, we are to show hospitality to one another (Acts 16:15; 21:8,16; Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 3:2; 5:9,10; Hebrews 13:2; 1 Peter 4:9; 3 John 5-8).

2. Our love for one another as family members is deep because we have been adopted into the most amazing world-wide body of fellowship that will live forever with Jesus as our brother, and God as our Father. Hebrews 2:11 says: **"For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, (ESV)** And, Hebrews 3:1 says, **"Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession," (ESV)**
3. Jesus takes his family obligations seriously. Matthew 25:40 says, **"And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" And, in 1 Corinthians 8:12 Paul says, "Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. (ESV)**
4. It is out of the home that the deepest love is felt and demonstrated. It is there that we share our possessions, our time, our home, and our privacy. It is

there that we provide friendship, comfort, acceptance and refreshment. It is there that we get to truly know people in ways we cannot in 90 minutes on Sunday morning.

- Some excuses for not inviting people into your home:
 - “My home is too small.”
 - “My home needs to be perfectly clean before I will feel comfortable inviting someone over.”
 - “I don’t have the gift of hospitality.”

2. Jerry Olsen has volunteered to take the first shift as a greeter downstairs to welcome people. If you would like to take a monthly shift contact Jerry Olsen.
3. Remember visitors’ names from one week to the next. Write them down if need be.

For Reaching Our Friends and Neighbors with the Gospel.

5. The home is the best place for evangelism to take place. It is a relaxed setting best suited for discussing the gospel. When God wanted Cornelius to hear the gospel, Cornelius wanted all his family and friends to hear it too, in his home. **Acts 10:24 And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. (ESV)** When Jesus called Matthew to follow Him, Matthew wanted all his tax-collector friends to follow Jesus too, by hearing him first, in his home. **Luke 5:29 And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. (ESV)**

Things you can do right now:

1. Plan now to do it monthly. If you don’t plan it won’t get done! I suggest a monthly date to have someone from church into your home and a monthly date to invite a non-churched person into your home. Sunday’s work best.