

Sermon Discussion

24 May 2020

Read 1 Peter 4:8-11

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 for ever and ever. Amen.

Dig Deeper

In verse 8, Peter says to “keep loving one another earnestly.” **“Earnestly” (ektenē, “stretched” or “strained”)** was used to describe the taut muscles of an athlete who strains to win a race. A Christian’s unselfish love and concern for others should be exercised to the point of sacrificially giving for others’ welfare.

Love covers (kalyptei, “hides”) a multitude of sins. This kind of strenuously maintained love is not blind but sees and accepts the faults of others (Prov. 10:12; 1 Cor. 13:4-7).

Christian love may be displayed through extending free food and lodging, offering **hospitality (philoxenoi, “being friendly to strangers”)** without grumbling to those who are traveling. During times of persecution, hospitality was especially welcomed by Christians who were forced to journey to new areas.

1. What has been your most memorable experience being on the receiving end of radical hospitality? Share with your group.
2. How are fellowship and entertaining different from hospitality? Why is it that we often find fellowship so easy and natural and hospitality feels more foreign and difficult?
3. Have you thought of hospitality as one of those optional things for Christians? Why do you think the Scriptures make it command for Christians to show hospitality?
4. What are some benefits to living a life of hospitality? How have you proven these to be true from your own experience?
5. Why is hospitality the only natural and acceptable response for a person who is truly a Christian?

Application

- How can you start practicing hospitality in your own life? Be specific: Time/location/with whom/how often?
- Hospitality is difficult and yet rewarding. What are some of the sacrifices you could make to be more hospitable, and what would be some of the rewards?
- Spend time as a group praying for one another in your areas of need.

Pray

Lord, guide me by Your Spirit to welcome those whom I may have previously not noticed or chosen to ignore. Bring opportunities into my life where I may show love and kindness as I have been shown by You. Grant me boldness to invite “strangers” into my life while remaining humble so as not to seek attention.