



Christian Hospitality

By Shannon Ford on October 20, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 3 John

In 2 John, John gave clear instructions to not offer hospitality to false teachers and deceivers. In 3 John, the practice of "Christian hospitality" is emphasized. Christian hospitality is showing the love of Christ in practical ways to fellow Christians based on love and truth. It is to be done faithfully (v. 5), with love (v. 5), and in a manner worthy of God (v. 6). Christians should treat visiting Christians as equals to ourselves (v. 8). In addition, Christian hospitality must be offered to others for His name's sake (v. 7), the true Christian motive.

Showing Christian hospitality is not based on gushy sentimentality or emotion. It is based on the truth of the gospel of Christ. Five times in this letter, John mentions "the Truth." Love in Truth (v. 1), walk in Truth (twice in vv. 3-4), help those who work together for the Truth (v. 8) and witness of the Truth (v.12). Christ is our example of showing Christian hospitality.

Christian hospitality is also based on living in the love of Christ. Hospitality, support, and encouragement for our fellow Christians is one of the main precepts of the teachings of Jesus, and Gaius was obviously an outstanding example of this ministry. We should do the same whenever we can, welcoming visiting missionaries, preachers and even strangers (if we are sure they are true believers) not only to our churches but also to our homes and offer them whatever support and encouragement they need.

PRAYER: Father, You are the God of hospitality. There is none like You that invites all to come to Him. Lord, help us remember that no one is better than anyone else in Your kingdom. Help us treat each other the way You treat people. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Jude

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