

BEFRIEND

GOD HAS CREATED US TO LIVE IN COMMUNITY

HOSPITALITY IN OUR HOMES

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.

3 John 1:1-14

⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. 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 honours God.

3 John 1:1-14

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. 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. ¹¹ Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God.

3 John 1:1-14

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 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.

3 John 1:1-14

“Fellowship” is an event that takes place in homes between people who are already friends and see each other as Christian family.

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“Hospitality” is an event that takes place in homes between people who are strangers whether believers or non-believers

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Those who are our friends today
were once strangers to us

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There are people who we will
meet at church with whom we
have not yet had fellowship

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Hospitality is an avenue through which those who are spiritually gifted with the gift of mercy, serving, giving or evangelism express their gifts

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1) THE PARTNERSHIP OF GAIUS

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 honours God.

3 John 1:5-8

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.

3 John 1:5-8

2 & 3 John seem to receive the least attention in the New Testament because they are each one chapter long and very simplistic in content

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This is the same Gaius, born in Derbe, settled in Corinth and later moved to Ephesus. This travelling companion of the Apostle Paul is also the dear friend of the Apostle John.

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Paul envisioned hospitality as
a way of solidifying ministry
partnership

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If Christians are not being
hospitable, then they are living
in disunity

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2) THE PRIDE OF DIOTREPHESES

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.

3 John 1:9-10

Biblical hospitality is explicitly
disassociated from grumbling

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⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God.

1 John 4:9-11

If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever.
Amen.

1 John 4:9-11

¹ Not to us, LORD, not to us, but to your name
be the glory.

Psalm 115:1

The outcome of hospitality is not more friends, but more praise and glory through your shared lives

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3) THE PERSPECTIVE OF DEMETRIUS

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.

3 John 1:11-12

Demetrius moves from being a negative example in Acts 19 to being a positive example in 3 John

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⁶ [Paul] planted the seed, [John] watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

Your hospitality says something about your spirituality. Your hospitality is part of Christian testimony.

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Human perfection either reminds
the visitor of their imperfection or
exposes your effort to cover up
your own imperfection

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Do not invite people over to see
your house, but to see into your
heart

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