

Power Hospitality

4-24-22

3 John 8 (ESV)

Therefore “we” ought to support people like these, that “we” may be fellow workers for the truth.

When we support Christian workers, we become fellow worker with them for the truth. Same work, Same rewards! Likewise, hospitality is powerful which encourages unity and love for one another. This “Power Hospitality” is demonstrated by the Apostle John’s friend Gaius.

3 John 5–6 (NIV) NO/OH

⁵ Dear friend (Gaius), 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.

The Apostle John commends Gaius for his hospitality to Christian brothers who came to visit the church. Then John encourages him to send them on their way “in a manner worthy of God”. This shows the supreme importance assigned to hospitality. This means that the traveling brothers were to be recognized as servants of God and therefore supported. In such instances, Christians were to provide hospitality as if the Lord himself were being welcomed.

John 13:20 (ESV) NO/OH

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives ME (Jesus), and whoever receives ME (Jesus) receives the ONE (God) who sent ME (Jesus).

When we show hospitality to God's servants, we are also showing hospitality to Jesus Himself. In Hebrews another interesting insight to hospitality is revealed.

Hebrews 13:2 (ESV)

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

The Apostle John wants Gaius to continue to show hospitality and send these Christian ministers on their way by providing food or money, or by arranging travel. They should be sent on their way in a manner that honors God. These “brothers and sisters” represent God and the Christian faith. Therefore, they should be treated as one would treat the Lord.

1 John 4:6 (ESV) NO/OH

We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Christian hospitality is important because the work of God and the Christian faith is never to be supported by pagans.

3 John 7 (ESV)

For they have gone out for the sake of **THE NAME**, accepting nothing from the Gentiles.

The proclamation of Jesus is made without either expecting or begging for support from non-believers! God will supply all our needs for HIS people and HIS ministry.

Philippians 4:19 (ESV)

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

If we are expecting or begging for support from non-believers, we are declaring that God is not able to supply our every need by HIS riches and glory. These “brothers and sisters” went out for the sake of the Name. They are proclaiming the truth and defending the truth from attack and misunderstanding. Thus, they are to be cared for as God’s representatives. In short, this is the church’s responsibility!

Although hospitality is required by all Christians, sometimes in wisdom and discernment hospitality should not be given.

2 John 10 (ESV) NO/OH

¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, ¹¹ for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

Those committed to Christ deserve hospitality, but not those who advocate some heretical non-Biblical teaching. Both those committed to Christ and those heretics are sending out teachers. The churches must be discerning and need to test the prophets.

1 John 4:1 (ESV)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Be alert for both those committed to Christ and those heretics who are wolves in sheep's clothing. Supporting an individual makes us a partner with them in their work, for good and for evil. Once we Identify those committed to Christ, we should show hospitality as if it were Jesus HIMSELF.

3 John 8 (ESV)

Therefore "we" ought to support people like these, that "we" may be fellow workers for the truth.

We ought to support people like these! Why? Because we will be fellow workers for the truth and will receive the same eternal rewards as those we support. Thus, Power Hospitality!

All Christian workers should be under the authority and accountability of the local church which is the pillar of the truth. Thus, the church, believers are responsible for Power Hospitality. The Apostle Paul gives a good summary.

1 Timothy 3:15 (ESV)

You may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

Be discerning while standing on the solid rock of Jesus.

Acts 4:12 (ESV)

And there is salvation in no one else (but Jesus), for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.