

# Minding the Neighborhood Gap

Series: Minding the Gap  
November 20, 2016 - Brad Bailey

## The Neighborhood Gap

### The Call of Jesus to Love Our Neighbor

Luke 10:27-28 (NLT)

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'... 'Do this and you will live.'"*

Luke 10:29-37 (NLT)

*The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"<sup>30</sup> Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling on a trip from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road."<sup>31</sup> "By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by."<sup>32</sup> A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side."<sup>33</sup> "Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him."<sup>34</sup> Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him."<sup>35</sup> The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'<sup>36</sup> "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked.<sup>37</sup> The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."*

- Loving our neighbors \_\_\_\_\_.
- There is a danger in " \_\_\_\_\_ " our lack of really loving our neighbors.
- There are lives along life's pathway...that are \_\_\_\_\_ and in real \_\_\_\_\_.

- If we feel we cannot stop to consider our neighbors because we are too \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_... especially when it is with "religious activity"... we may be missing God's priority.
- To love a neighbor will require \_\_\_\_\_...including the road of indifference.

### We Can Provide a Bridge to the Neighborhood by the Power of Hospitality.

1. Hospitality flows \_\_\_\_\_... through our own experience of profound inclusion.
2. Hospitality includes but is not limited by our \_\_\_\_\_ or places of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Hospitality appreciates the significance of offering what is 'special' but is centered in the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Hospitality involves \_\_\_\_\_.

### A Practical Challenge to Bridge the Gap with Our Neighbors

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Intro

Concluding our series entitled “Minding the Gap” ...focusing on the gaps that can lie between us. Jesus said he came to unite life in God.. and the church was to be a representation of such uniting.

We believe as God’s Vineyard on the Westside...we were **created to bring together what the world always pulls apart**. Democrats and Republicans. Rich and poor. Blacks and whites...and every ethnicity. Men and women. Native born and foreign-born. And ...the **young and the old**.

**Today** we are going to engage **one final gap**... the **distance that can lie between us and our neighbors**. **This gap is literally “closer to home.”**

## The Neighborhood Gap

Most of us have heard a fair amount about how the nature of connections has been declining ... the **nature of neighborhoods and neighbors has been lost**. **We have become so use to the distance that we can have with neighbors that it may be hard for us to realize what has been lost**. **The truth is that a lot has been lost just within a few of the major changes on the past century or two**.

**Imagine life before some of these. Sociologists point to some of the major factors.**

- The **emphasis on boundaries**....most notably suburbs... but also the barriers of garages, fences, and the like. What a change from the time when our existence was centered around the same village well...and all we faced we faced together. The idea that “good fences make good neighbors” may echo something sensible...but imagine a time when it would have offended our sense of responsibility for one another.
- The **automobile**... and all the independence it brings to the way we live. Imagine when you could head off...when your whole life was lived within where you would walk.
- The **personalization of entertainment**.... starting with the television. Imagine when all interaction was dependent on actual relationships.
- And now there is the increasing **mobility** of where we live that leads to a loss of any roots and permanency.

*Michael Frost says the modern Western experience of life is like that of a tourist, someone who is always moving, never belonging. Always interested in collecting experiences, but remaining superficial and disconnected from permanency.*

**We have lost what it means to live as neighbors...to be neighbors. We do well to hear...**

## **The Call of Jesus to Love Our Neighbor**

You may recall...that when a religious man asked Jesus what mattered most in being right with God... Jesus agreed that all the commands of God were rooted and flowed from two great commandments.

**Jesus says that the whole law of God could best be summarized by two great commands**

**Luke 10:27-28 (NLT)**

**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’... ‘Do this and you will live.’”**

Love God...our lives are only going to be right when He is at the center of our hearts and affections...and from this... we must hold the same regard for others as we would also ideally have for ourselves. We are to love our neighbors.

As you may recall, Jesus **then tells the story** often referred to as **The Good Samaritan**.

**Luke 10:29-37 (NLT)**

*The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”<sup>30</sup> Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling on a trip from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.<sup>31</sup> “By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by.<sup>32</sup> A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.<sup>33</sup> “Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him.<sup>34</sup> Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him.<sup>35</sup> The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’<sup>36</sup> “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked.<sup>37</sup> The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”*

This exchange and the story can speak to us on many levels. I just want to consider some of the ways this speaks to our call to love our neighbors.

**The whole exchange centers on the call to love our neighbor.**

**Let’s not miss the obvious...** the first thing we have to hear...really hear...is that...

- **Loving our neighbors really matters.**

Simple enough... everyone may think we’ve got that down. But this exchange reflects that **thinking that we already know this... is itself the problem.**

The whole exchange flows out of the basic engagement with Jesus...by one who has felt fine in terms of his outward religious life.

But one can **get a sense** that **Jesus has a way of making those who were too comfortable... feel a little vulnerable**. So the man asks what sounds like a safe question. Many rabbis had different opinions on what were the most central laws or commands. This guy thought he could answer this one well.

**When the words stand before him...** "Love God with every aspect of your being...and love your neighbor as yourself"... in the reality of his life... it probably **got a little uncomfortable**. So he seems to deflect this into a question of "so let's get philosophical about who really is our neighbor."

I wonder if we don't have a similar tendency to think... we've already got it down because we know the right answer. Sometimes we approach following Jesus as a process of gaining or accumulating information...more than learning a way of life. "Love your neighbor." Until this so called "basic" sits before our lives... close enough to relay begin to expose us.

**So we read in verse 29...**

*The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" – Luke 10:29*

He wanted to justify himself. He was not really loving his neighbor. Given the story that Jesus teaches... that is centered in one considered an outsider to this man's life. ...it is likely that he did okay with those he deemed to be his type...his equals ...good by his standards... cool by his standards.

- **We can be in danger of "justifying" our lack of really loving our neighbors.**

There is a danger in "justifying" our lack of really loving our neighbors. **This seems even more notable when we consider...our actual neighbors.**

**So Jesus tells a story. It begins with a fellow Jewish man walking the through the vulnerable roads that was familiar to all who heard this. The road from Jerusalem to Jericho. And there he is taken by robbers... beaten and left wounded and dying.**

- **There are lives along life's pathway...that are wounded and in real need.**

You may think that Jesus is describing something unrelated to your actual neighbors. You've seen them...they may look healthy... dressed just fine... driving a nice car. But often it's because we have become so private...we've kept on the other side of the road...so we just don't know much.

Where we live there are lives which are sacred yet unseen.

**Story: About three weeks ago...** I got a call...introduced themselves as MARIPAZ CARDENAS ...DEPUTY PUBLIC CONSERVATOR. She asked if I knew a Forrest Wellman. I did. I knew him as Jim...but that his given name was Forrest. He was a very distant relative. As a child he had been a a few Christmas Eve gatherings. His father had been an alcoholic after the war...and his mother dies of disease when he was still in school...so he moved in with some cousins ...but that proved negative and he withdrew from life after high school....and I mean all of life. No phone. No contact. My father was the only one who maintained any relationship...and later I picked up on that. Recently he required an operation...and I was the only person that could provide the required ride to and from. So I went to his place in Pomona...found he lived under a basement barely developed. Now 70 years old.

Well...she told me he had deceased. Found only because there was a delivery and he didn't respond to the door. The only name they found in his place was mine. So she was calling to know if I could identify him.

In a subsequent conversation, I asked her..."Is this primarily what she does?" She said yes it is. Explored some more...discovered that in LA County...**about 200 people die every month** without any known connection.

**About six bodies arrive each day at L.A. County's cemetery in Boyle Heights.** Their remains are placed in what is called "The Common Grave"...where a book with the names is attached... 1,000 pages of names and dates fill row after row in near-perfect script. This is the book of the unclaimed dead.

How many face life alone...or have aspects of their lives unknown?

**Jesus saw all of humanity as oppressed....** spiritually oppressed... wounded and left to die.

Hard to miss? Apparently not. Jesus describes how a priest comes by... then a Levite... which as some translations describe...were the temple assistants. Well...when the main guys are too busy...you can always count on the assistant. They took care of whatever the main priests were too busy for. But he too passed by.

Jesus was bringing the story really close to home. He cast it with the characters everyone knew.

- **If we feel we cannot stop to consider our neighbors because we are too busy and preoccupied... especially when it is with "religious activity"...we may be missing God's priority.**

Jesus didn't miss the irony. He included it...because it is explaining the way things are. The way we can believe that the way we treat our neighbor doesn't relate to loving God. If we think it is some secondary extra credit optional choice... we really don't love God.

But the hardest part...is busyness.

It never actually says how busy they were.... But we do know that the Samaritan had to get to some other responsibilities. He couldn't just stay. He had to get to some other things but would come back by. I think it's interesting that the one who does stop and love their neighbor...is the one who appears to have had other responsibilities they needed to get to.

So Jesus isn't telling us about those who have time can help when those who are too busy can't.... he tells us the story about how those who appear to justify themselves with religious duties...and how one WITH responsibilities stopped, saw, cared, and managed to still be responsible.

....So luckily there was another... the one that Jew on the road would consider a villain... Samaritan. And it says...

**Luke 10:33-34 (NLT)**

**“...when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them.**

Most literal translations simply state...”When he saw him...he went to him...” .that is, he crossed the road...”

**Luke 10:33-34 (ESV)**

...when he saw him... He went to him

**What do you think that space between them represented? What do you think he had to cross when he crossed that road?**

- *Fear? ... sure ... the man had been robbed... and it's dangerous...that kind of violent could be waiting for someone to stop. We can see some messes we don't want to get involved with.*
- *Conflict? - that man as a Jew despised him. If will have to deal with his hatred...his prejudice...with his belief that he will be unclean if he is touched by such a man. Maybe you have a neighbor who you know has major differences in political perspective.*
- *Indifference? – just don't feel any responsibility for a neighbor... each have our unit of life...what appear to be mutual boundaries... so home is a place I escape expectations.*

*Jesus says the one who loves their neighbor as themselves...crossed the road.*

- **To love our neighbor will require crossing the road...including the road of indifference.**

*There's a road between us and our neighbor. It may be a crossing the street... the sidewalk... the courtyard... the hallway.*

*What lies on the other side is worth crossing.*

*I have fears... Most of us would do well to I have neighbors that I find a natural connection with...and some I feel less ease with... politics... or some comment in the past.*

**Jesus goes on to describe how he helped him...** cleaned...bandaged... took him where he needed to go to be safe and heal...and gave towards it.

Our aim must be higher than just to be a good neighbor ourselves. The **goal is to create a neighborhood of good neighbors** whereby the collective gifts, talents, resources, and caring hearts of many neighbors join forces when needs arise.

**Biggest thing our neighborhoods need... is connection... a simple initiative to allow the natural connection that everyone desires.**

**So...How Can We Bridge the Neighborhood Gap?**

**We Can Provide a Bridge to the Neighborhood by the Power of Hospitality.**

**God has an antidote to our separation. It's called hospitality.**

**Romans 12:13**

**“Practice hospitality. (NIV) = “make an effort”... intentional**

**“Be inventive in hospitality.” (Message)**

**Everyone has the power of hospitality within them.**

Hospitality is not some secondary quality in life with God...it is central to living the life of God.

The Bible tells us that some have an extra supernatural gifting in the power of hospitality. God's nature is gifted uniquely to every person...and some have a spiritual gifting in hospitality. Many of those among us that welcome us as we gather in our weekend and weekday gatherings have the gift of hospitality.

But like all gifts...such reflections of God are not just to be expressed by those with special gifting. We are all called to exercise the power of hospitality.

Romans 12:13 encourages us all to practice hospitality, whether it is our spiritual gift or not. This Greek word *philozenia* is actually a combination of two words – *philos*, meaning "affection" and *zenos*, meaning "stranger." While usually translated to mean hospitality, *philozenia* signifies *affection toward strangers*.

When we **open our hearts** as well **as our homes**, we're practicing Christ's hospitality.

**Some principles for joining in the power of hospitality...**

**1. Hospitality flows from God... through our own experience of profound inclusion.**

**The whole Bible is the story of Divine hospitality... because it is the story of God's invitation *defined by inclusion*.**

**Our tendency is to think** in terms of what must simply emanate from us... and as such... **that we must create a hospitable inclusive world.**

> **But such a world already exists... Jesus was so clear in his parables about the Kingdom and the feasts...that it is GOD who is the grand host.**

If we receive Jesus... we enter the household... and can in turn extend the household to others.

- William Barclay said that true *“Christianity was and still should be the religion of the open door.”*

The Bible reflects the understanding that **truth is exclusive, but love is not.**

**Let your heart flow from God’s hospitality to you. Direct your heart from the motivation of mere obligation to that of extending what God is doing.**

**2. Hospitality includes but is not limited by our homes or places of living.**

The nature of hospitality sees **huge significance in our homes...** because our **homes are the most notable expression of being a family...** of being included. The meals that are served there express this in the most essential way.

**(Ex of my parents)**

We must ask... **does our home... our place of living... express inclusion to others?**

**Of course hospitality is not limited to our homes... or even the need to have a home. Maybe you have some limitations in the opportunity** that your living space provides.

> There are other ways we can extend ourselves to others.

- **We can take** time to go to **a neighbor’s event...**
- Consider some of the **life events and transitions people may be in...** someone moving in...or moving out... getting married or having a child...or starting a job. These all offer opportunities to connect in common bonds of care.
- **Take someone to lunch, coffee...**
- Simply choosing to include a person at work that others haven’t

**3. Hospitality appreciates the significance of offering what is ‘special’ but is centered in the simple.**

Jesus tells us of **banquets...** but also of **basics...** even a **cold cup of water.**

Some may feel... *“My House is too messy, and I have no time to keep it up”.*

Some may *think you have to be rich* to show hospitality. Not only is that not true...most people experience more hospitality from those who have more simple means.



The most hospitable lives in this world are those with the least.

***"God won't ask the square footage of your house, He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home."***

***It's important not to confuse hospitality with entertaining.***

Entertaining can focus on making a special setting...and there are times for it.

Hospitality...is inviting people into your life, just as you are. Hospitality is walking into the living room two steps ahead of your guests and kicking the toys behind the couch. Hospitality is sharing whatever you're having, even if it's just leftovers or microwave Tater-Tots. Hospitality is real life. And therefore, by necessity, hospitality is humble. Because if we open up our homes and our lives to people to care about others... **some of the messiness of our own lives is going to be exposed. And that's OK.** Hospitality has to come before pride.

> Most people feel more welcomed and comfortable discovering a true home in all it's real life activity...than something so perfect it is harder to relate to.

***"When hospitality becomes an art, it loses its very soul"*** - Max Beerbohm (in *And Even Now*)

Don't try to be Martha Stewart...just enjoy being Jesus.

**It's about the treatment of the people not the place.**

#### **4. Hospitality involves initiative**

Jesus was intentional...and he calls us to be intentional.

**The primary roadblock for most of us...**is that we feel too busy. Hospitality takes time...and **life will probably not just hand you a bunch of extra time.** It does put you out. It draws you out of yourself...pushes you outside your comfort zone

A lot of us may see our house as a sanctuary. We may be thinking: "My house is the place where I get away from people, not where I have them in!"

**Hospitality isn't easy for many of us. The greater value we place on privacy, the less likely we are to practice hospitality.** We may **think it will steal away the little bit we have in life.**

> I ask you to stop and look face to face into that feeling... because it belies the greater truth... that our lives become bigger when they are expanded by compassion and hospitality. They become more human... rich... and satisfying.

#### **A Practical Challenge to Bridge the Gap with Our Neighbors**

The challenge we want to take up together...is **essentially** a first step to **KNOW and GATHER** your neighbors.

**A Challenge:** LOOK AT THE INSERT...

- Get to know who the closest 8 neighbors around you are  
One side...9 boxes... the center one represents where you live...and the 8 around it...represent the 8 neighbors who live closest to you. The goal is to first identify them by name.
- Plan a holiday get together (potentially the first or second weekend of December)

**Holiday Party Challenge**

- Consider the **first weekend after Thanksgiving...the first or second weekend in December**...before all the other commitments on the schedule.
- Consider a simple cider and desert gathering on Friday evening... or Sunday evening afternoon
- Use the term “holiday” rather than Christmas... that welcomes those from every cultural background.
- Great to be the host...but even better would be getting neighbors to do it together.

I want to tell you something that I hope adds to your desire to take this challenge. You may think that those who are pastors are different. We face the same fears...awkwardness...busyness.

EVERY PASTOR said they were planning to hold a party this year.

You may not need a formal physical invitation...but it can help define some definition... like the locality of those invited...and the casual nature...and these can make a difference. What's most vital... is that you decide...then set a day and time...and then communicate this in some manner.

As you do...**let your goal begin with just enjoying your neighbors. They are sacred.**

You can begin loving your neighbors by bringing them together.

**CLOSING:**

**And if you think God is too serious to value a party....just think of Jesus.**

**If you think that having these people over might be messy... someone might drink too much... be offensive in their language...remember that is exactly the way it was with Jesus.**

- **Jesus knows the power of parties.**
- If you strip parties from the accounts of Jesus' life...and the stories he tells about God and the heavens...a lot of missing. If Jesus was not teaching...he is often on his way to or from a party.
- Jesus created a huge controversy in the way he partied.

I believe Jesus is saying to us...**You can live out a message amidst the mess. Don't fear the messiness. Fear being too religious so that you don't love your neighbor.**

## Notes:

1. Studies show that we are now actually “connected” to a larger and more diverse circle of people. Even so, nearly a quarter of Americans say they have nobody to talk to, up from 8 percent in 1985. And this is not simply a picture of solitary retirees. The middle-aged are the loneliest group of all in the United States. According to one recent study, 40 percent of adults between the ages of forty-five and forty-nine said they were lonely, a rate of loneliness that has doubled since the 1980s.

From - Ford, Lance; Brisco, Brad. Next Door as It Is in Heaven: Living Out God's Kingdom in Your Neighborhood (p. 24). NavPress. Kindle Edition.

2. Below are some other translations and verses...

Romans 12:13 (MSG)

Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

Romans 12:13 (NLT)

When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

Romans 12:13 (CEV)

Take care of God's needy people and welcome strangers into your home.

Romans 12:13 (GW)

Share what you have with God's people who are in need. Be hospitable.

Paul’s emphasis in Romans, is that hospitality is an essential part of the life of the church caring for one another. As some explain,

Christians are commanded to show hospitality to one another. Commentators like to point out that staying in inns in the ancient Near East was not always desirable. So traveling Christians like Paul were dependent on the hospitality of churches.

Verses 3 to 8 describe how Christians live distinctly from the world within the context of the church community. Every Christian must use his or her individual gifts to serve the body. Verse 9 onward provides a list of attributes that should mark what makes every individual Christian life distinct: genuine love, brotherly affection, fervency in spirit, patience, prayerful, and, eventually, showing hospitality. Apparently, hospitality is a basic of the Christian faith. It is part of how we present our bodies as spiritual sacrifices.

[1 Timothy 3:1](#) (or [Titus 1:8](#)), - Paul instructs Timothy on what must characterize elders, or pastors, in the church. Verse 2 says an elder must be hospitable.

[1 Timothy 5:3](#), I could see that hospitality is not only required of elders, it is required of the older women in a church who are called to set an example for younger women.

With hospitality, we proclaim to the world the incarnation of Christ, God's grace in salvation, the unity of the church, and a Christian's participation in the life of Christ. And to Christ himself we say, "I love you, because you have identified yourself with the least of these brothers."

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/11631555.html>

I believe that the admonition in Romans is emphasizing the need to express the Kingdom’s care to the “family” in Christ, but that the Biblical quality of hospitality, caring for the stranger, is clearly fitting of those yet to believe.

In the Old Testament, the call may have been to those who were at least trying to identify with the faith of the Israelites, but no delineation as such is made or emphasized. And most notably, in the Gospels, Christ seems drawn into hospitality with “sinners.” While these may have been deemed part of God’s household of Israel...from the religious world, they were unclean and outside...and Jesus was breaking down that wall. Similarly, when God reveals He is including the Gentiles in His work, he does so by having Peter enter the home and hospitality of Cornelius who is waiting to know more. Peter was going to have to break down that wall of separation defined by entering another’s home.

We also read,

Matthew 5:43-48 "You heard that it was said, ‘You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ However, I say to you Continue to love your enemies and to pray for those persecuting you that you may prove yourselves sons of your Father who is in the heavens, since he makes his sun rise upon wicked people and good and makes it rain upon righteous people and unrighteous. For if you love those loving you what reward do you have? Are not also the tax collectors doing the same thing? And if you greet your brothers only, what extraordinary thing are you doing? Are not also the people of the nations doing the same thing? You must accordingly be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Romans 12:20

On the contrary: If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head

Hebrews 13:2 (CEV)

Be sure to welcome strangers into your home. By doing this, some people have welcomed angels as guests, without even knowing it.

Hebrews 13:2 (NIV)

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

As John MacArthur notes,

If you are a Christian, your responsibility to love others does not stop with fellow believers. The apostle Paul is very explicit and direct about this: “See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all men” (1 Thess. 5:15). “All men” includes even your enemies. The “strangers” mentioned in today’s verse can refer to unbelievers as well as believers. The writer of Hebrews is saying we often won’t know the full impact hospitality will have; therefore, we should always be alert and diligent because our actions may even influence someone toward salvation.

The last part of Hebrews 13:2, “some have entertained angels without knowing it,” further underscores the point that we can never know how significant or helpful an act of hospitality might be. Abraham had no idea that two of the three men passing by his tent were angels and that the third was the Lord Himself, but he still went out of his way to demonstrate hospitality (Gen. 18:1-5). The primary motivation is still love, for the sake of those we help and for the glory of God. From - <http://www.gty.org/resources/print/daily-devotion/ST0113>

Hospitality to those still outside God's household reflects God's mercy to all. "Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and *strangers* to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world" ([Ephesians 2:12](#)).

In Jesus, we find ourselves now to be the enemy who has been loved, the sinner who is saved, the stranger who is welcomed. "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" ([Romans 5:8](#)). And welcomed strangers should be quick to learn to welcome other strangers.

Our love for outsiders runs deep as it flows from remembering ourselves to be outsiders who have been dearly loved by a lavishly hospitable God.

From - <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/hospitality-and-the-great-commission>

3. John Piper says:

The physical force of gravity pulls everything to the center of the earth. In order to break free from earth-centered life, thousands and thousands of pounds of energy have to push the space shuttle away from the center. There is also a psychological force of gravity that constantly pulls our thoughts and affections and physical actions inward toward the center of our own selves and our own homes.

Therefore the most natural thing in the world is to neglect hospitality. It is the path of least resistance. All we have to do is yield to the natural gravity of our self-centered life, and the result will be a life so full of self that there is no room for hospitality. We will forget about it. And we will neglect it. So the Bible bluntly says. Stop that! Build a launching pad. Fill up your boosters. And blast out of your self-oriented routine. Stop neglecting hospitality. Practice hospitality.