

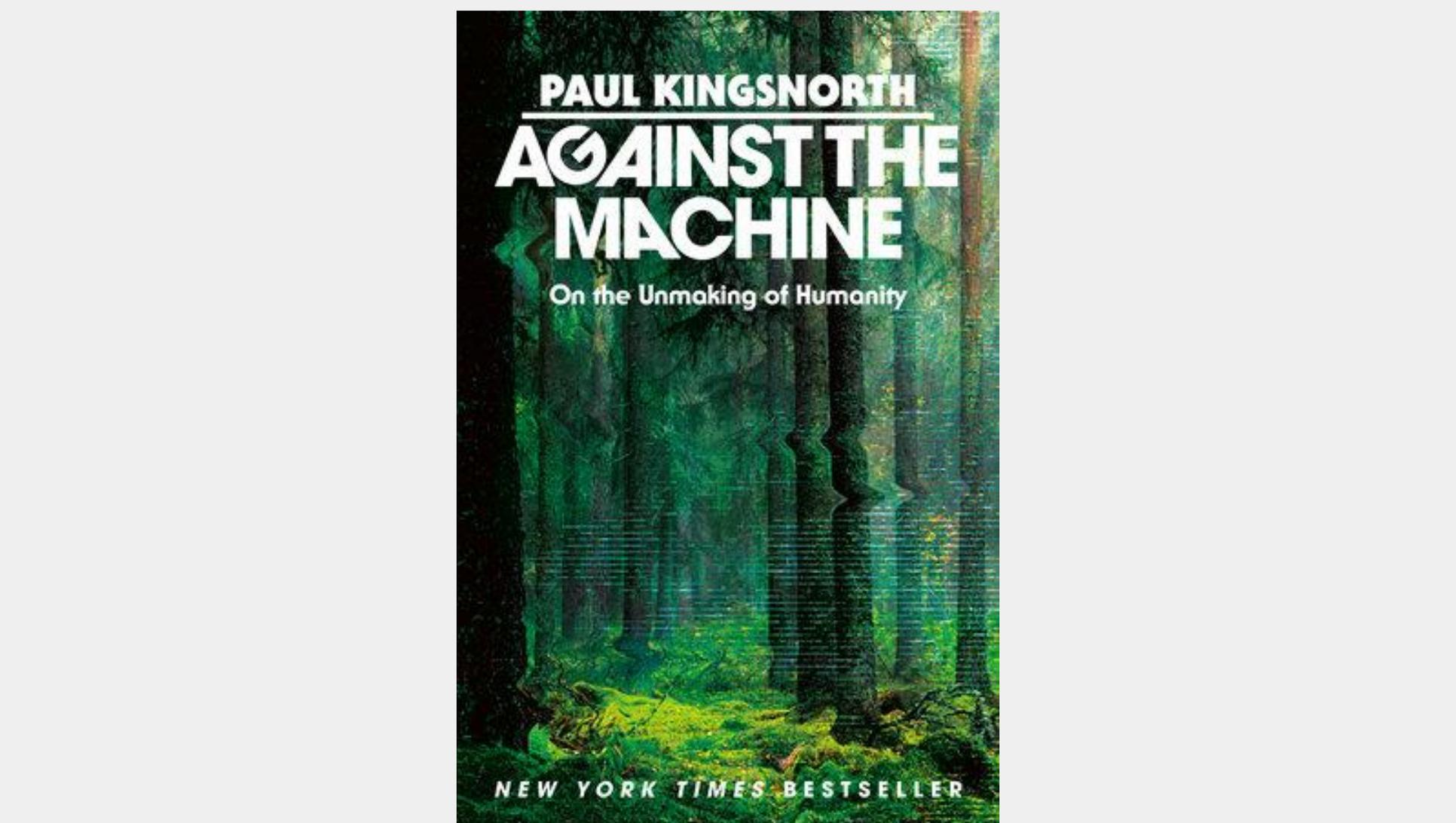
A photograph of a two-story blue house with a white porch and balcony. The house has a prominent front porch with white columns and a balcony above it. The text is overlaid on the image.

# HILL HOUSE

RENEWING MINDS. DISCERNING VOCATION. ENGAGING CULTURE.

Integrating *Faith* with *all of Life*.

# **Hospitality and Witness in a Post-Christian Culture**



**PAUL KINGSNORTH**

**AGAINST THE  
MACHINE**

On the Unmaking of Humanity

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Progress, Profit, Power, Prestige

Progress, Profit, Power, Prestige → Speed, Scale, Standardization,  
Surveillance...

Progress, Profit, Power, Prestige → Speed, Scale, Standardization,  
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People, Place, Past & Prayer

Progress, Profit, Power, Prestige → Speed, Scale, Standardization,  
Surveillance

~~People, Place, Past & Prayer~~ → Science, Self, Sex & Screen

# **The Machine (i.e., modern techno-society) replaces:**

- community → autonomy
- place → digital mediation
- tradition → technocratic progress
- transcendence → self-expression

# **1. Meaning collapse**

Without past, prayer, tradition, and transcendence, meaning becomes fragile and subjective.

# **2. Social fragmentation**

Without people and place, community dissolves into networks of individuals, and those relationships can tend to be mostly transactional.

# **3. Ecological destruction**

Placeless systems exploit landscapes and people because they are not rooted or tied to them.

**What is the Opportunity Here?**

# **Hospitality and Witness in a Post-Christian Culture**

“We live in a post-Christian world that is sick and tired of hearing from Christians. But who could argue with mercy-driven hospitality? What a potential witness Christians have, untapped and right here at our fingertips.” – Rosaria Butterfield

# **Hospitality and the Story of Scripture**



CREATION



FALL



REDEMPTION



RESTORATION

# God's Hospitality → Our Hospitality

1. Creation is an expression of God's generous love. He is the host, and we are his guests in a world of fellowship, mutuality, good work, creativity, and abundance.



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4. As those redeemed and now as his followers, you and I are called to keep the restoration party going – as God's deputized hosts! – to, by the power of the Spirit, spread this generous love, community, and abundance to the world.

**God's Hospitality → Our Hospitality**

**Who's invited?**

# Who's invited?

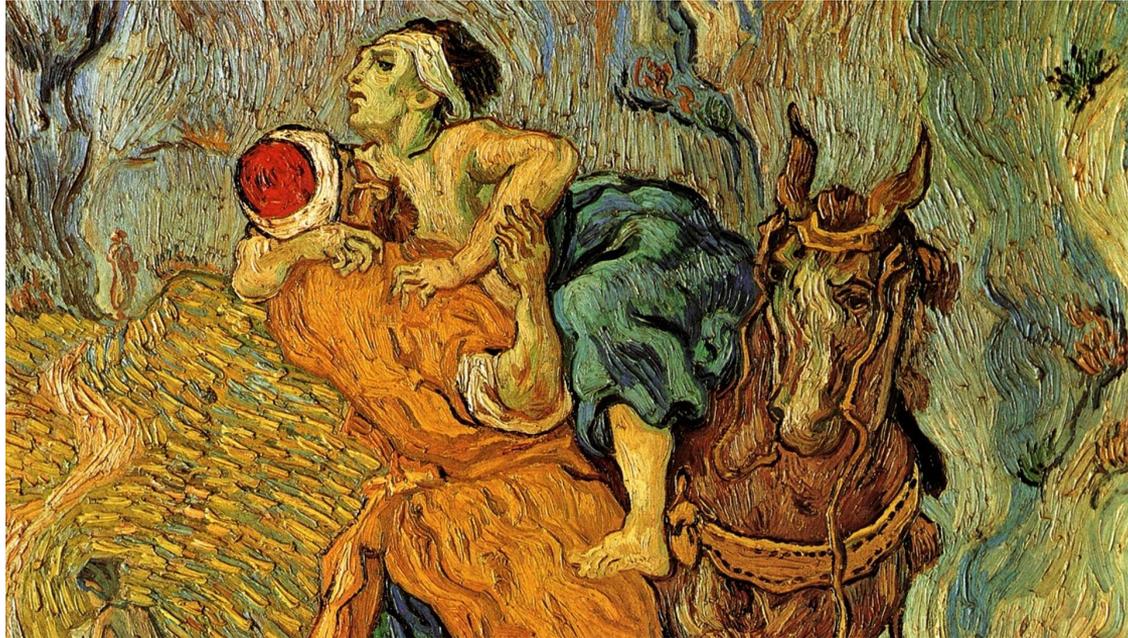
The New Testament word for “hospitality” (Greek *philozenia*) comes from a compound of “love” and “stranger.” Hospitality has its origin, literally, in love for outsiders.

# Who's invited?

In ancient cultures, hospitality involved welcoming the stranger and offering them food, shelter, and safety. Of special concern as well were those who fell into the “quartet of the vulnerable” – the poor, the orphan, the widow, and the sojourner (Deut 24:17, 27:19; Exod 22:21-22; Isaiah 1:17, 29:21; Zech 7:9-10; etc.)



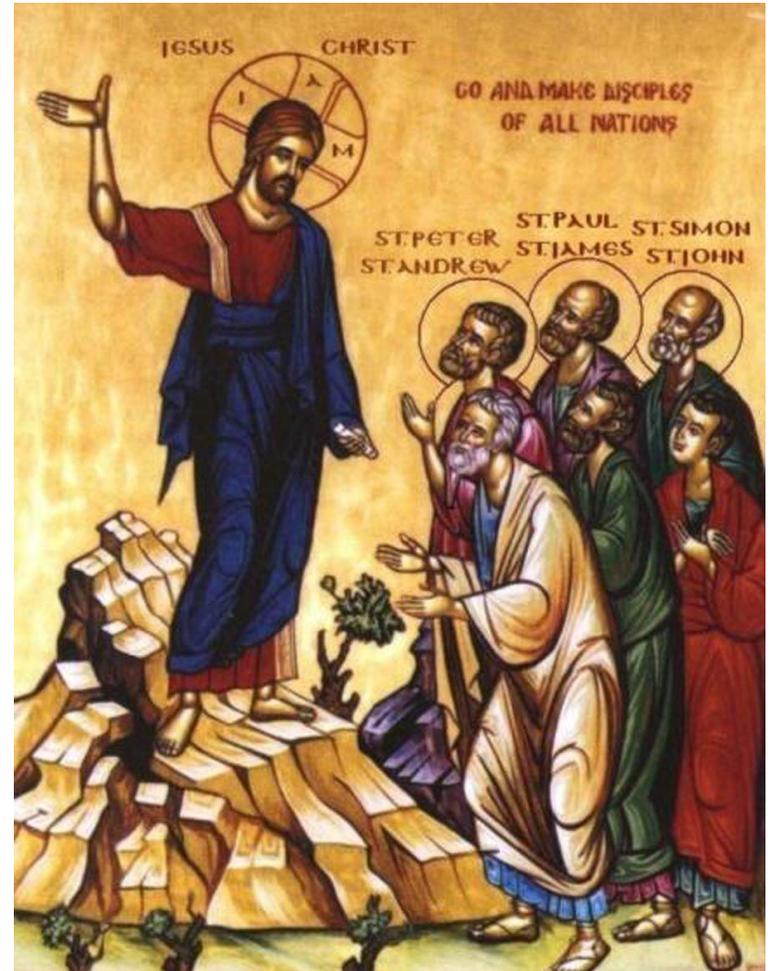
# Who's invited?



# **The Great Commission**

# Who's Invited?

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*  
— Matthew 28:16-20



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*\*μαθητεύσατε πάντα τὰ ἔθνη (mathēteusate panta ta ethne)*

# The Promise to Abraham (Gen 12:1-4)

*he Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.*

*2 “I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;*

*I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.*

*3 I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;*

*and **all peoples on earth**  
**will be blessed through you.”***

# Neither Jew nor Gentile

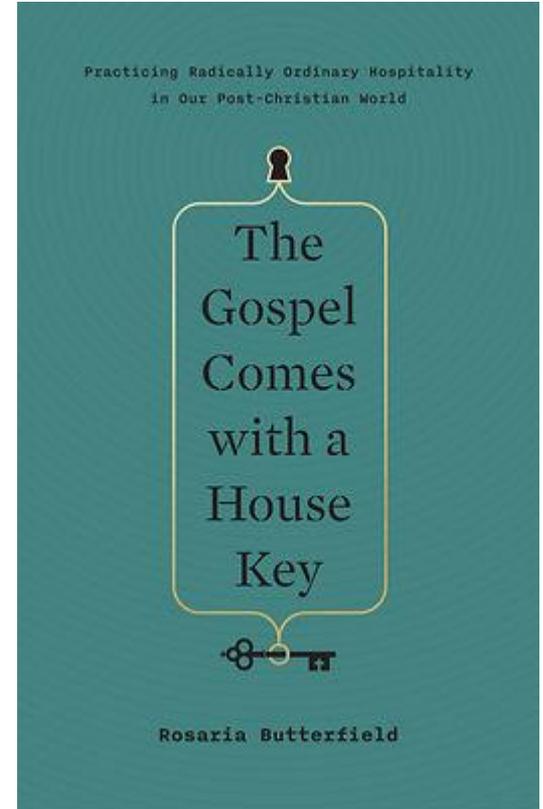
*“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”*

– *Galatians 3:26-29*

# Practicing Christian Hospitality Today

“When we take the risk to love someone across differences, God always meets us more than halfway there . . .”

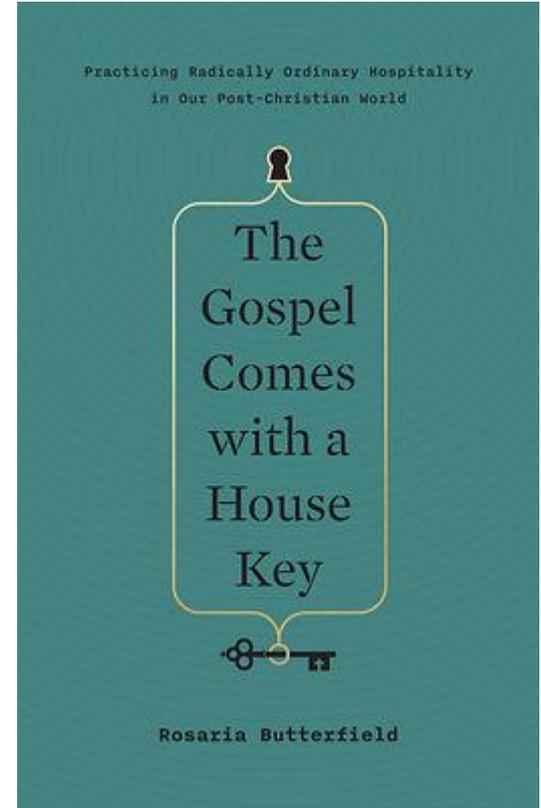
– Rosaria Butterfield, author of *The Gospel Comes with a House Key: Practicing Radically Ordinary Hospitality in our Post-Christian World*



# Practicing Christian Hospitality Today

“When it comes to offering hospitality as Christians,  
it’s riskier to say no than it is to say yes.”

– Rosaria Butterfield, author of *The Gospel Comes with a House Key: Practicing Radically Ordinary Hospitality in our Post-Christian World*

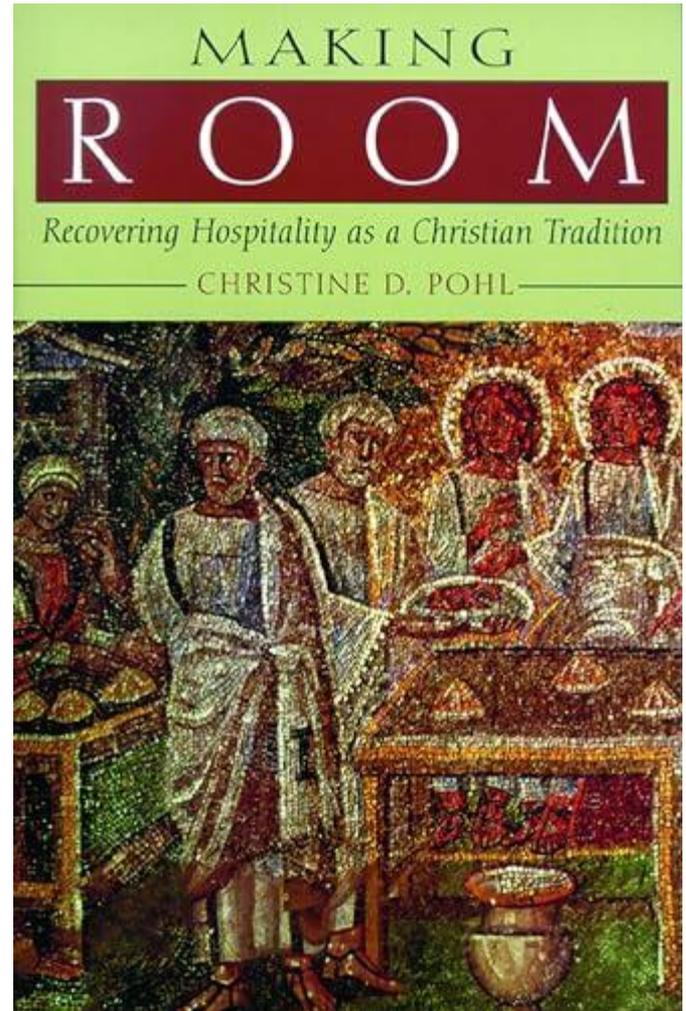


**What gets in the way of us actually doing this?**

# Practicing Christian Hospitality Today

"When hospitality is viewed as entertainment, the house is never ready."

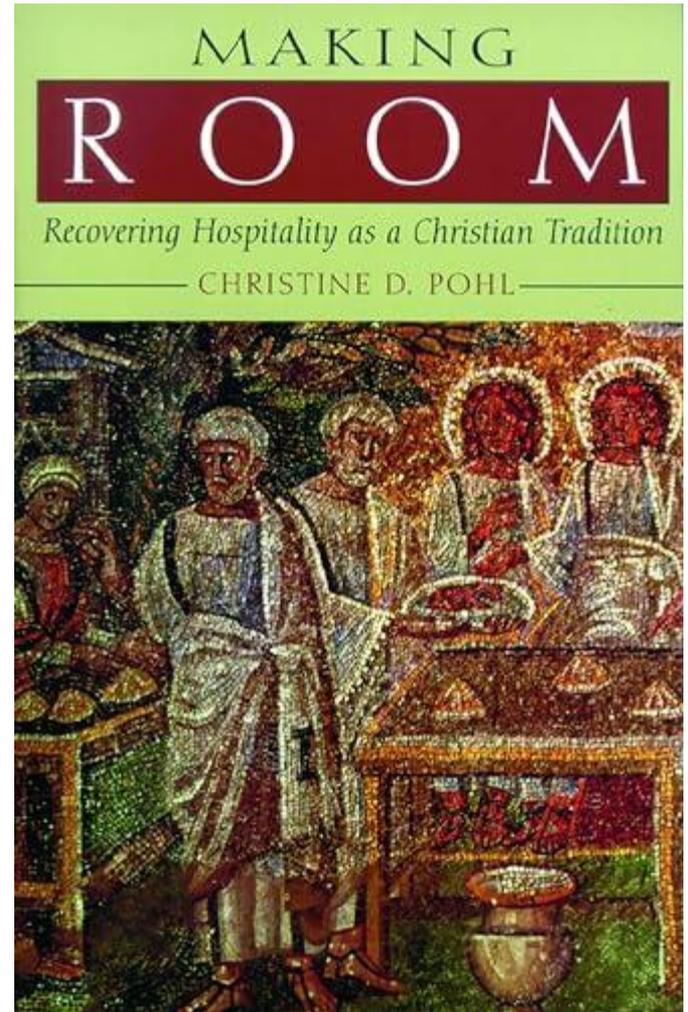
– Christine D. Pohl, *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*



# Practicing Christian Hospitality Today

"We are sometimes more willing to help people than to share our lives with them."

– Christine D. Pohl, *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*



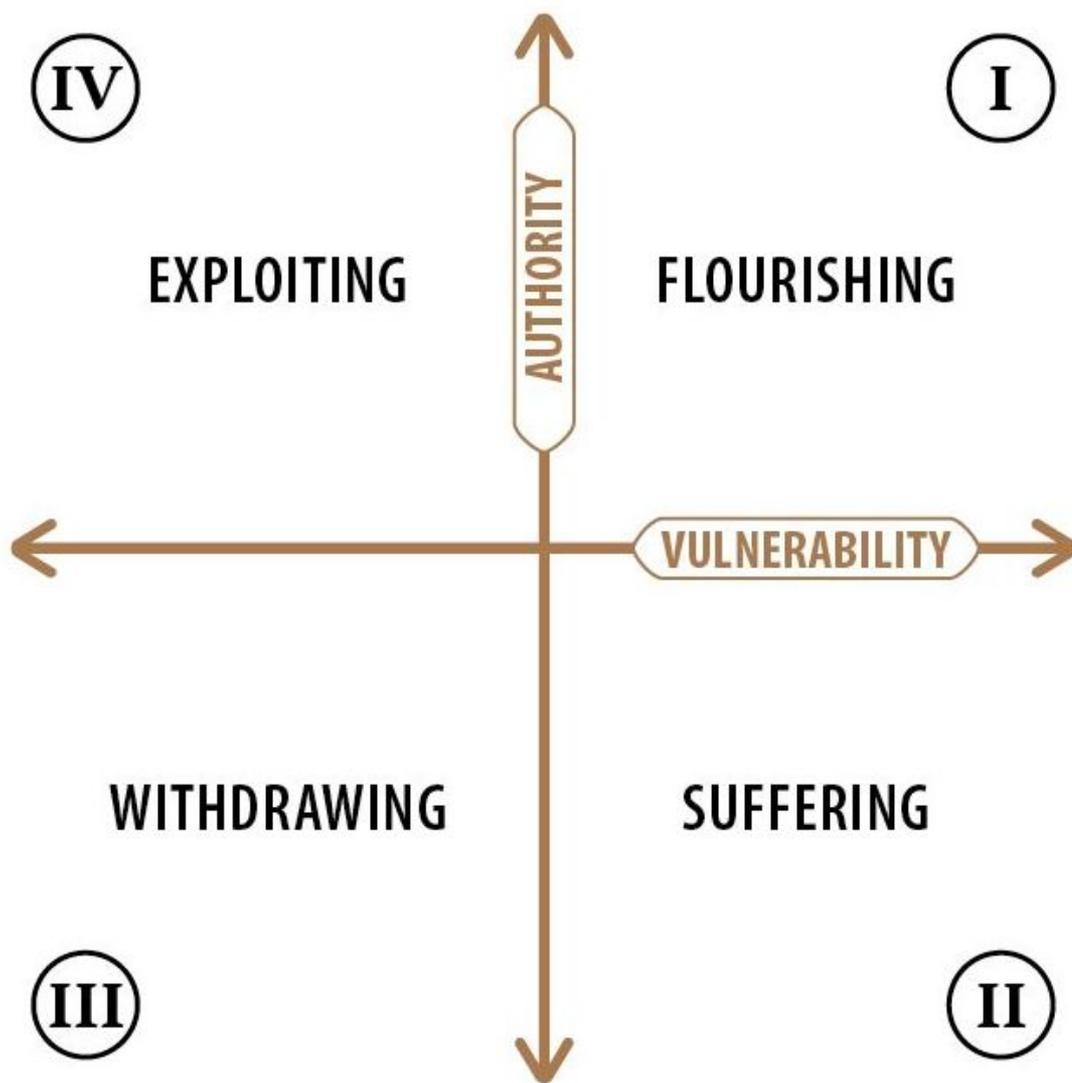
ANDY CROUCH

Author of *Culture Making*

STRONG  
AND WEAK

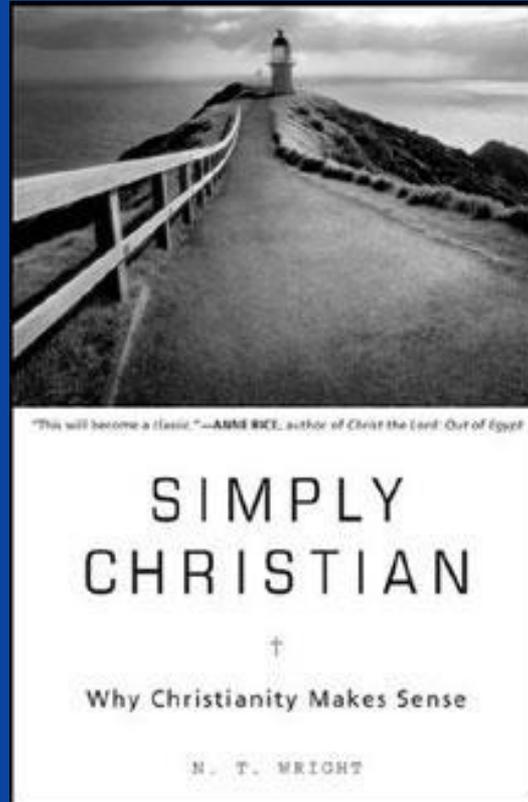


EMBRACING A LIFE OF LOVE,  
RISK & TRUE FLOURISHING



In a post-Christian society, there are many places of dissonance between the Christian faith and mainstream culture. But where do you sense that there might be places of potential resonance or common ground?

# “Echoes of a Voice”



# Echoes of a Voice

# Echoes of a Voice

- The Longing for Justice

## Echoes of a Voice

- The Longing for Justice
- The Hunger for Relationships

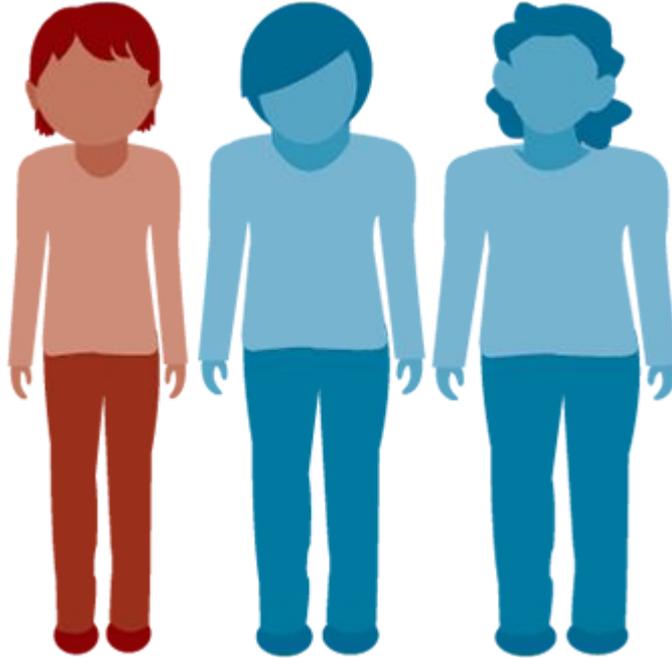
## Echoes of a Voice

- The Longing for Justice
- The Hunger for Relationships
- The Quest for Spirituality

## Echoes of a Voice

- The Longing for Justice
- The Hunger for Relationships
- The Quest for Spirituality
- The Delight in Beauty

# Loneliness and Isolation in our Society



# The Costs of Social Isolation and Loneliness

Loneliness costs the US economy an estimated \$406 billion a year, in addition to the estimated \$6.7 billion a year in Medicare costs for socially isolated older adults.

<https://www.cdc.gov/emotional-wellbeing/social-connectedness/loneliness.htm>

# Financial Stress in the U.S.

A new study from CNBC and Momentive reveals that an alarming 70% of Americans are dealing with financial pressure due to increasing costs and stagnant wages, and the situation is only worsening.

Financial stress is becoming nearly unavoidable in today's world.

<https://journalrecord.com/2023/10/study-shows-70-of-americans-stressed-over-money/>

# Practicing Christian Hospitality Today

“Because there are more people than we have time or strength to see personally and care for, it is imperative to remember that it is not sinful to be finite and limited.” – Edith Schaeffer of L’Abri



# Questions for Discernment and Discussion

1. How might you extend *or even receive* (e.g., Zacchaeus) hospitality to/from those around you?
2. How does where you live and how you spend your time impact your opportunity for showing hospitality?
3. Who is the vulnerable and “other” in your midst?