

This is Us: Bridge Builders

Pastor Kevin Donoho

February 11, 2024

Opening Discussion

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

College Church's Mission

To Lead every generation into a growing relationship with Jesus so that all may experience God's goodness and grace.

Core Value #1:

We are a blended family: We are a diverse family with unique backgrounds and stories that God has brought together. We want everyone to experience the belonging that comes with being a part of the family of God.

Core Value #2

We Cultivate Christlikeness: We choose to surrender our lives to be continually shaped by Christ so that we might become more and more like Him. We believe He first changes our hearts, which then changes our behavior.

Core Value #3

We Give and We Go: We give and go in sacrificial ways to impact our community and world. We are generous because God has been generous with us.

Core Value #4

We Pursue a God-inspired Vision: We dream big and align with God's purpose so His will is accomplished on earth as it is in heaven.

Core Value #5

We Build Bridges of Hospitality and

Love: We create environments of warmth and hospitality so all people can feel respected, valued, and invited to experience God's goodness and grace.

Thought #1: We create environments of warmth and hospitality

Definition: Hospitality can be defined as "the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way." In the New Testament, the Greek word translated "hospitality" literally means "love of strangers." Hospitality is commanded and commended throughout Scripture.

Reflecting on **Genesis 18:1-8**, what do Abraham's actions teach us about hospitality, and how can we apply this example in our lives today?

Leviticus 19:33-34 emphasizes treating foreigners with love and equality. How does this principle challenge our contemporary attitudes toward immigrants and refugees?

Hebrews 13:2 suggests that showing hospitality to strangers may lead to unexpected blessings. Can you share a personal experience where extending hospitality had a meaningful impact?

Matthew 25:34-36 highlights the connection between hospitality and serving Christ. How does this passage shape our understanding of hospitality as a spiritual practice?

How does **1 Peter 4:9** encourage us to practice hospitality with a joyful heart, even when it may require sacrifice?

Discuss how **Matthew 22:37-39**, which emphasizes love for God and neighbor, intersects with the concept of hospitality. How can hospitality be an expression of love for God and others?

How does the belief in the inherent dignity of every person inform our approach to hospitality and the way we interact with others? How can we daily apply the understanding that our treatment of others reflects our treatment of Christ himself? What steps can we take individually and as a community to cultivate a culture of hospitality in our church?

Thought #2: We show hospitality corporately and individually

How has the increased emphasis on hospitality within our church impacted your experience and the experiences of others? Share specific examples if possible. In your opinion, why are warmth and hospitality important in a church community? How does it contribute to the overall atmosphere and sense of belonging?

Pastor Kevin mentioned that everyone has a role to play in fostering hospitality within the church. What are some practical ways you can individually contribute to creating a welcoming environment? How do you personally feel about the invitation to serve in the area of hospitality if you're not already involved? What hesitations or excitements do you have about stepping into this role?

Share any personal experiences you've had where you felt warmly received by others in a church or community setting. How did that experience impact your perception of the community? What are some potential obstacles or challenges that individuals or the church as a whole

might face in practicing hospitality, and how can we overcome them?

Romans 12:9-18

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

How does Paul's call to "love others genuinely" challenge your understanding of love and its expression in our relationships with others? How is this perspective counter-cultural in the world today? In what ways can you practically demonstrate genuine love in your interactions with those around you?

In what ways does Paul's instruction to "bless those who persecute you" and to "live in harmony with each other" challenge you? How can we apply these principles within our church or community?

Thought #3: Hospitality forces us to wrestle with position and posture

Revisit Romans 12:9-10

