

The Tale of Two Homes

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TRADING BACK DECKS FOR **FRONT** Porches

Craig Smith • September 7, 2025 • Tale of Two Homes

The tale of two homes...

- **Back deck life (privacy)** - *“‘Everything is permissible’ – but not everything is beneficial. ‘Everything is permissible’ – but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.” (1 Cor. 10:23-24)*
- **Front Porch life (community)** - *“Do not forsake your friend and the friend of your father, and do not go to your brother’s house when disaster strikes you – better a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.” (Prov. 27:10)*

Some common barriers to front porch faith...

- Selfishness - *“An unfriendly man pursues selfish ends; he defies all sound judgment.” (Prov. 18:1)*
- Laziness - *“The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he will not even bring it back to his mouth!” (Prov. 19:24)*
- Work/life balance - *“The fool folds his hands and ruins himself. Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.” (Eccl. 4:5-6)*

Instead of a physical renovation of the home, we need a spiritual renovation of the heart - *“Test me, O LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth.” (Psalm 26:2-3)*

Requirements for front porch faith...

- Availability – *“Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.” (Titus 3:1-2)*
- Intentionality – *“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.” (Col. 4:5)**
- Sacrifice – *“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Eph. 5:1-2)*

Every Christ-follower has a “front porch” calling...

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. (2 Cor. 2:14)