

Power of the Table

September 12, 2025

TRADING BACK DECKS FOR **FRONT** Porches

Craig Smith • Power of the Table • September 21, 2025

Never forget...

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." (Matt. 5:13-15)

Strategic hospitality: turning your kitchen and table into a launch-pad for ministry...

*For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ. (**Acts 28:30-31**)*

- **An open heart should lead to an open table** - *"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it." (**Heb. 13:2**)*

Hospitality helps to cut through a consumer mentality - *"The leech has two daughters. 'Give! Give!' they cry." (**Prov. 30:15a**)*

*Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. (**1 Peter 4:9**)*

A few ministry table "manners" to embrace...

- **Actions that __ bless ____** - *"In the same way, let your light shine*

before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matt. 5:16)

- Words that influence – *“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” (Col. 4:6)*
- Love that shocks – *“But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.” (Luke 6:35)*

Spiritual influence and respect are earned in the everyday and ordinary rhythms of life – *“Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders...” (1 Thes. 4:11-12)*

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. (Eph. 5:8-10)