



Growth Group Questions
January 28, 2024
“Hospitality is a Choice”

Context

In the previous verses of chapter 4, Peter was writing about the final judgment, death and the resurrection. As we move into verse 7, he looks to the end of times. The end is near because the earthly ministry of Jesus has brought about the “last days.” The authors of the New Testament certainly felt that the Lord would return soon, yet we must remember that God’s time is not always the same as ours.

Peter tells the believers to be alert and sober minded. Clear mindedness has to do with wisdom, that comes from the knowledge of God. End of times conversations should not incite people or cause panic. Instead, believers should recall the words of Jesus, from Luke 12:35, when he noted that the faithful servant should be dressed and ready for service as he or she awaited the return of Christ. Our calling is to live into the promises that have been given to us, as we wait for the second coming.

Our new life in Christ is revealed in loving service to one another. We are to love each other deeply, or more literally, constantly. This word used here for love has the connotation of being stretched or extended. Our love and care of another continues to grow in depth and endurance. In 1 Corinthians 13, the apostle Paul wrote that love does not envy or dishonor others, but instead seeks to build others up. Peter quotes Proverbs 10:12, when he says that love covers over a multitude of sins. Love can help us with the forgiveness of sins.

Hospitality was one of the defining hallmarks of the Christian faith. Much like we saw in 3 John last week, we see once again an allusion to people opening their homes for traveling missionaries. The reference to “without grumbling” shows us that some people were probably growing weary of opening their homes. Hospitality is not always easy.

Peter does not present a list of the gifts of the Spirit, like the apostle Paul does. Instead, he mentions two broad areas of ministry - speaking and serving. As we look to God, we discover the gifts that we need to extend a gracious and generous hospitality to others. We are to see that these gifts come from God, and we must utilize our gifts in a way that honors God and brings glory to God.



Scriptures & Quotes

1 Peter 4:7-11

⁷ The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Romans 14:8

⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Psalms 27:13-14

¹³ I remain confident of this:

I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.

¹⁴ Wait for the LORD;

be strong and take heart
and wait for the LORD.

Galatians 6:9-10

⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Philippians 2:14-16

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation."^[a] Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

CS Lewis - *The Great Divorce*

"Hell begins with a grumbling mood, always complaining, always blaming others, but you are still distinct from it. You may even criticize it in yourself and wish you could stop it. But there may come a day when you can no longer. Then there will be no you left to criticize the mood or to even enjoy it, but just the grumble itself going on and on forever like a machine. It is not a question of God 'sending us' to hell. In each of us there is something growing, which will "be" Hell unless it is nipped in the bud."



Questions:

1. Pastor Paul told us that we are on a God-given mission to extend God's hospitality to the world. What does that mean to you?
2. Is your definition or view of hospitality continuing to evolve as we move through this sermon series? If so, how?
3. In 1 Peter 4:9 and again in Philippians 2:14, we are told to do everything, including demonstrating hospitality, without grumbling. What is grumbling and why do we do it?
4. Why do you think C.S. Lewis said that "Hell begins with a grumbling mood"?
5. Pastor Paul shared with us three Bible verses he said were good antidotes to grumbling. The first was Romans 14:8. What does this verse tell us and why is this message a good antidote to grumbling?
6. As you review Psalm 27:13-14, what insights do you get that could be helpful to you as an antidote to grumbling?
7. Galatians 6:9-10 tells us to "to not become weary in doing good." What does it mean to not grow weary in doing good? How is this an antidote to grumbling?
8. What are some ways in which we can guard against growing weary as we seek to live out God's mission in our lives?
9. In addition to the three Bible verses Pastor Paul shared with us, are there other Bible verses that you believe can help you "do everything without grumbling or arguing" (Philippians 2:14)?
10. The Psalms are filled with complaints to the Lord. How does this fit in with what we read in Philippians 2:14-16?

