



Love Letters: Showing Hospitality

Do this, don't do that.

By Tim LaTour, September 20, 2020

Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honours God. It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth. - 3 John 1:5-8 (NIV)

Hospitality: Love of Strangers

I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us. So when I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, spreading malicious nonsense about us. Not satisfied with that, he even refuses to welcome other believers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church. - 3 John 1:9-10 (NIV)

Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God. - 3 John 1:11 (NIV)

Imitate Good, not Evil Have Empathy, not Apathy Show Hospitality, not Hostility

To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth. Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. — 3 John 1:1-4 (NIV)

How can we do this?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What are some ways you can be hospitable? How can you put faith into action by loving strangers?
2. How can we be a church like this, where hospitality is an instinct? Wouldn't we want to receive a letter like this?