

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Non-Negotiables // Extend Authentic Hospitality
Pastor Gabe
January 22, 2023

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is something someone has done for you that made you feel especially welcomed and cared for?

Reading: 1 Peter 4:7-11

Outline:

- I. An intentional life (v. 7)
 - A. Peter calls us, in light of Christ's eventual return, to live with a sound mind. While this is hard to do because that means we have to resist our culture that cultivates un-intentionality, Paul tells us at the end of verse 7 that we can begin to live intentionally through prayer.
 - B. "Be intentional with your life. Do not fall for a life of triviality, flippancy, and outrage. Live with the end in mind." -Pastor Gabe
Q: *When has prayer (or if not prayer another practice) helped you live intentionally?*
- II. A hospitable life (v. 8-9)
 - A. Paul cauls us to love our brothers and sisters in the church earnestly. We should aim to view our brothers and sisters charitably and not to be easily offended by them, and when we are, we should extend grace to them.
 - B. While authentic hospitality can look like opening your home to strangers, it can also look like simply loving strangers. Authentic hospitality can change lives, and we are all called to practice it.
Q: *What does living a hospitable life look like for you?*
- III. A gracious life (v. 10-11)
 - A. Paul reminds us of God's grace and encourages us to steward whatever gifts He has given us. God in his grace already loves us, is continually long suffering for us, and welcomes us into His arms, no matter what.
 - B. In response to receiving the love, patience, and welcome of God in Jesus, we can (and should) seek to intentionally extend that hospitality, that love, patience, and welcome to others.
Q: *When has someone's graciousness impacted you the most?*

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) What are some challenges to living a hospitable life?
- 2) What exactly does living an intentional life mean?
- 3) How can we go about resolving conflict with our brothers and sisters in Christ in a gracious and hospitable way?
- 4) How can we remind ourselves to live gracious lives in times of disgrace or unpleasantness?

Suggestions for further study:

- Hebrews 10:25 Q: How does this verse show how different the intentional Christian life can be?
- Colossians 3:14 Q: How does this verse remind us of the importance of loving the stranger and our brothers and sisters in the church?

Closing Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for your perfect gift of grace. Help us to learn how to love the stranger and live intentional, authentically hospitable lives. Show us how to best show Your love in all things. Amen.