



Longing for Belonging

Wk3 SG One Another Sermon Series

Greet one another with a kiss. 1 Co 16:20, 2 Co 13:12

Background: We run into hungry, naked, sick, and thirsty on a daily basis but they're not always found on the streets. On any given Sunday, people come to church hungry for fellowship, acceptance, and love, sick because of their lack of it but they often leave just as hungry, just as thirsty, and just as lonely because we seldom take the time to see them as Christ would see them.

WARM UP: *Have you ever been invited somewhere and then been ignored by the person who invited you? How did it make you feel? How likely would you be to accept an invitation from that person again?*

The Apostles Paul and Peter understood that one of the first steps to making people feel like family begins with how you greet them and receive them when they come into your presence, your home, or your church.

Read About It: Luke 7:36-50, 1 Peter 4:8-10 (ESV)

Background: Jesus went wherever he was invited but that doesn't always mean that he was welcomed once he got there. On more than one occasion, Jesus accepted an invitation but the hospitality of the guest was somewhat lacking.

1. What surprised you more: that a Pharisee to invite Jesus to his house for dinner or that Jesus accepted his invitation?
2. Have you ever been invited somewhere or to something only to find out when you went you weren't really wanted? Do you believe people do that with Jesus? Have you?
3. Who ended up crashing the dinner party? What did she do that embarrassed the host? Do you think the woman's actions embarrassed Jesus? Why or why not?
4. Who did the Pharisee pass judgment on in his mind? Why?

Insider Information: Five traditional acts or gifts of hospitality were required for a guest once that person crossed the threshold into the home: 1) Offering a drink of water. 2) Washing the feet of the guest. 3) Greeting the guest with a kiss. 4) Anointing or washing the head. 5) Offering the guest something to eat.

5. Why do you think Jesus tells this story? What does he see in the woman that Simon does not?
6. What comparison does Jesus make between the woman's actions and Simon's lack of them? What had Simon failed to do?
7. How difficult is it for you to express love in your relationship with Jesus? With others?

From the Message: *Offer hospitality to one another.... 1 Peter 4:9 (NIV)*

- This morning Pastor Steve said, "We run into hungry, naked, sick, and thirsty on a daily basis but they're not always found on the streets." Where did he say we often pass them? What are they missing the most in their lives?
- This morning Pastor Steve said, "Hospitality is more than a dinner party. It is making others feel welcomed and wanted wherever we are." How would you define

hospitality?

- What did you think when Pastor Steve said, “what happens before and after the service is as important as the service itself.” Where have you seen this truth being lived out? How so?
- **What struck you the most from this morning’s message? Why that?**
- **What challenged you the most? What changes do you plan on making as a result?**

Reflection and Prayer: True welcome takes time but Peter was also well aware of how little time we actually have before Christ returns. Peter wanted the church fellowship to be a place where people connected with God and with one another because he felt time was running out to make a difference for Christ. How would we act and treat one another if we felt the same urgency?

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

1 Peter 4:8-10 (ESV)