Making People Feel Welcome

Ken Chapman · James 2:1–13

INTRODUCTION

- To be awkward and to be unwelcome and to know that you're in a place that you don't belong.
- This morning I'd like for us to consider a very practical lesson in helping us make this place totally unlike that experience.
- I'm preaching this lesson to do two things. Number one is to encourage us to continue in this pursuit, but then maybe even to get better than what we're already doing in excelling at making people feel welcome.

1 Be a Welcoming and Inviting Church

- We need to recognize that to truly be the church that we read about in the New Testament, that we need to be a welcoming and inviting church.
- A body of believers who cared about their neighbors. And even a body who in their assemblies were to be concerned about visitors to those assemblies.
- What about all the cars that drive by our parking lot and see our building and see our times of services? How do those people feel about our church?

2 Our Assemblies Have a Secondary Purpose

1 Corinthians 11:30; 1 Corinthians 14:26; James 2:1–13

- For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.
- I don't just come to be made spiritually stronger, but I come together to help you be made spiritually stronger.
- He uses as the model for impartiality our treatment of visitors to our assemblies.
- If you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.
- A local church today that insists that it has the right name on the sign, the right worship, the right work, the right organization, and fails in this regard, fails to be the Church of Jesus Christ.

3 Give Some Thought to It

- Here's the first thing. Just give some thought to it.
- Don't just get up every morning and do what you normally do and park in your parking place and sit in your pew.
- Be open, be aware of this.

4 Put Yourself in Their Shoes

- Concretely apply the commandment of Jesus to do unto others as you would have them do to you.
- The church is not to be just some kind of social club for those of us who are insiders.

- A place of respite, a place of solace, a place of hope, a place, yes, where the truth is taught and demanded. But also a place that echoes the words of Jesus.

5 Speak, Welcome Them, Put Them at Ease

- Just get over it and talk to them.
- Don't be afraid of the awkwardness in your own position to help alleviate the awkwardness in their position.
- Make them not feel like they're outsiders.
- Not everybody that comes into our assemblies knows the things that you know. And realize that the little things matter.
- If you're a member, sit closer to the front.

6 Genuinely Invite Them Back and Follow Up

- Extend that invitation for them to come back, that you enjoyed having them here and you would love to see them again.
- Identify their needs as unawkwardly as you can. Find out why they're here.
- Is there something going on in their life that made them search for some place to worship or to find God?

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **So keep it up. But also step it up. There's more we can be doing. There's more we should be doing if we want to be the church that we read about in the New Testament.**

MY NOTES