

Failing to Receive Guests

[Last night two young teenage men came to stay with us. Right now there is a push to open the Common Ground Café and the house is crowded with brothers and sisters from both Gad and Judah who have come to help. But these two young men slept on the floor in the living room. We are not even sure whether they had a blanket.]

*What happened to the first church? They became passive and stopped receiving strangers and became inward and ingrown and stopped having sensitive hearts. Our Father loved the world so much. He loved the world. Rom 11:30 speaks about the world. He loved the world so much, but they became disobedient; and He created Israel for them so that Israel would be a light to them. But Israel fell. He created the church. The church fell from being the light of the world. That is what he said in Rom 11:22 — that you will be broken off, too, like Israel was broken off, like the world is broken off, if we do not remain in His kindness — in His lovingkindness and His *chesed*. We will be cut off if we do not keep on loving the people of the world. Now He wants to win the world back so that the kingdom of this world will become the kingdom of Messiah — the kingdom of God. So therefore our Father is going to use Israel to be a light and then, finally, in the next age, He is going to get what He wanted — the whole world with everyone who loves Him. And we are going to represent Him.*

But you know, the heart of man is so evil that even after the evil one is bound up, when he is later released for a time, he is going to be able to deceive multitudes and multitudes of people on the earth — just pretending to go up and worship Yahshua.

The love of the many will grow cold. People will turn against one another. I don't want it to be that we would be this way at all. I do not want my love to wane. Paul said in 1 Cor 16:22 that we would be broken off, cut off, if our love waned. Paul told the Ephesian church, “*Don't let your love die.*” It is the last thing he told them — “*Don't let your love die.*” What is love dying? Love dying is overlooking guests. That is what it is — overlooking guests.

It is not until the final eternal age that Israel becomes His, the people through whom He will represent Himself throughout eternity. Who is going to love so much? We are here. We are the ones whom He loves *through*. Understand? It is the nations that He loves, and He is going to get us to love the nations. Israel is His special people, yes, but they are only special in the fact that they love the nations. And the whole universe will be filled up with the nations — people that our Father created in His own image. He is going to love them through us. We are going to help them. We are going to rule the nations in love, through good government. There will be good and wonderful government of care and taking care of our Father's gifts, looking out after one another's needs. That is what we are born for; that is what we are created for. We are servants. The church is a servant. Israel is a servant of our God. And we are learning to look out after one another's needs. How do we know we have passed out of death and into life? Because we love. We love outsiders, but especially we love one another. We are saved to love outsiders — people who are outside and they want to come inside like we are — to gather them in, bring them in.

So in Ephesians, Paul is talking to us — that we would be that people who have not been cut off. Everybody He has ever created failed. It should not be that what you create is not useful to you. A potter makes a pot to be useful to him. That is what I want to be. I want to be useful in the hands of my Maker. So let's pray that we will be forgiven of this. Because even though the guilt may not rest upon you, it rests upon us. Even in the old covenant when there was a sin that the whole tribe or whole nation was guilty of, they had to bring an offering. It is something that we are all a part of so we all share in the guilt.

Don't let your love die. Don't let your love grow cold (Mt 24:10). Many will. And many will turn against one another. I do not want it to be that we would ever stop receiving guests and being hospitable to them. We cannot ever fall from receiving people and providing a place for them. We can never become passive in this.

Our Father entrusted Himself to us. He gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit. He will never take it back. We belong to Him lock, stock, and barrel, because we gave ourselves to Him. And therefore we will take care of guests. We will make sure that others are cared for like we were cared for. We reached repentance. His love reached us. We want others to reach there. Whatever tribe or location we are in, we must never ever overlook strangers.

We are a tested stone — tested to see whether we have the real thing in us. Do you have the real thing in you? If we do, we have love for one another and we are peace-loving.