

When The Doors Are Open

Colossians 4:2-6

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Our neighbourly love is one of the best gifts God intends for Singapore. While this love is what we owe and must be given to our neighbours, we must give it freely. It is not transactional.

The 3 open doors we seek in neighbourly love:

1) Our Door

Col. 4:2-6 – Love motivated Paul to say what he did. Despite being under house arrest, he sought the good of others through prayer. He was looking and asking for opportunities for effective proclamation of the gospel through an open door (vv3-4). He not only sought after but also recognised that this door comes from the Lord (1 Cor. 16:8-9; 2 Cor. 2:12). As Christians, this is a door that we need to ask God to open for us. When we express our neighbourly love, we must also yearn for God to open this door for us to circumstantially do His work. In love, as we pray for our neighbours, pray also for that open door to come – the special opportunity to share the gospel. Love seeks the welfare of our neighbour and ultimately, our neighbour's greatest welfare is found in knowing Jesus Christ. When we respond to this open door, our neighbourly love will be perceived not just as love from us, but the reality of God's love through the gospel in us. Pray that our neighbours would marvel not just at our love for them but also God's love for them!

2) Our Neighbour's Door

Loving our neighbours as ourselves means enduring the awkwardness and absorbing the hostility if any from them. Paul exhorts us to be thoughtful in how we reach out to our neighbours, making the best use of the time we have (v5). As we take up steps in love for the gospel, we need to make wise moves and buy up opportune moments! This is how God desires for us to reach out,

and it applies to our immediate residential neighbours.

v6 – Our speech is meant to reflect God's grace. Speech that is seasoned with salt is meant to be effective. When we are regularly tasting God's goodness through the word, our own speech would naturally reflect saltiness (Ps. 34:8). Experiencing God's goodness would enable us to speak winsomely into people's lives. Our sincere love for our neighbours may invite questions about the Christian faith, and this allows us to speak more directly about the gospel. Let love shape our answers to the questions they might have!

3) Our Nation's Door

Even as our nation celebrates its 55th birthday, there are strong dissenting views amongst the people about the best way forward. Amidst the whole spectrum of views, God calls us to respond in love. We walk in wisdom towards everyone, making the best use of time. We make sure our speech is gracious and seasoned with salt. Despite opposing views, we approach our neighbours and choose to love them. By doing so, we actively participate in the healing of our land; where love covers a multitude of sins. In a climate of bitterness, frustration, anger and suspicion, the church of Jesus Christ with outstretched arms stands in the gap. As a church, we seek a door for our nation where true success and inclusiveness is found in a Saviour, Jesus Christ. He is the one and only door we need (John 10:7-9)! Jesus is the only door with eyes and ears that seeks a new relationship with us. Christ is love, and His love is an open door. Let the cries of our hearts be for Christ to be the door of our nation!