




ON SPIRITUAL FORM
MAY

PREACHING
THE GOSPEL

**How do we preach
the gospel?**





As a reaction to a very aggressive, manipulative and often degrading type of evangelization, we sometimes have become hesitant to make our own religious convictions known, thereby losing our sense of witness.



- Henri Nouwen

Practices

- Reaching out to others through hospitality
- Sharing words of hope
- Practicing mercy & justice
- Joining God where he is already working





1. Jesus' primary method for preaching the gospel was hospitality





In Luke's gospel Jesus is either going to a meal, at a meal, or coming from a meal.



- Robert Karris

Meals in Luke


- **Luke 5: tax collectors & sinners**
- **Luke 9: Jesus feeds five thousand**
- **Luke 10: Jesus eats w/Martha & Mary**
- **Luke 11: Pharisees condemned at a meal**
- **Luke 14: Jesus tells disciples to invite the poor to meals**
- **Luke 19: Jesus and Zacchaeus**
- **Luke 22: Jesus eats last supper**
- **Luke 24: risen Jesus eats w/disciples on road to Emmaus**





**2. Jesus' practice of hospitality
disrupted social & religious
norms attached to meals**





It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of table fellowship for the cultures of the Mediterranean basin in the first century of our era.

Mealtimes were far more than occasions for individuals to consume nourishment. Being welcomed at a table for the purpose of eating food with another person had become a ceremony richly symbolic of friendship, intimacy, and unity. Thus betrayal or unfaithfulness toward anyone with whom one had shared the table was viewed as particularly reprehensible. On the other hand, when persons were estranged, a meal invitation opened the way to reconciliation.



- Scott Bartchy




3. Jesus' practice of hospitality exposed people's hearts



**4. Jesus' practice of hospitality
embodied the kingdom
message he was preaching**





For Jesus “feast” was not just a “metaphor” for the kingdom. As Jesus announced the feast of the kingdom, He also brought it into reality through His own feasting. Unlike many theologians, He did not come preaching an ideology, promoting ideas, or teaching moral maxims. He came teaching about the feast of the kingdom, and He came feasting in the kingdom. Jesus did not go around merely talking about eating and drinking; he went around eating and drinking. A lot.



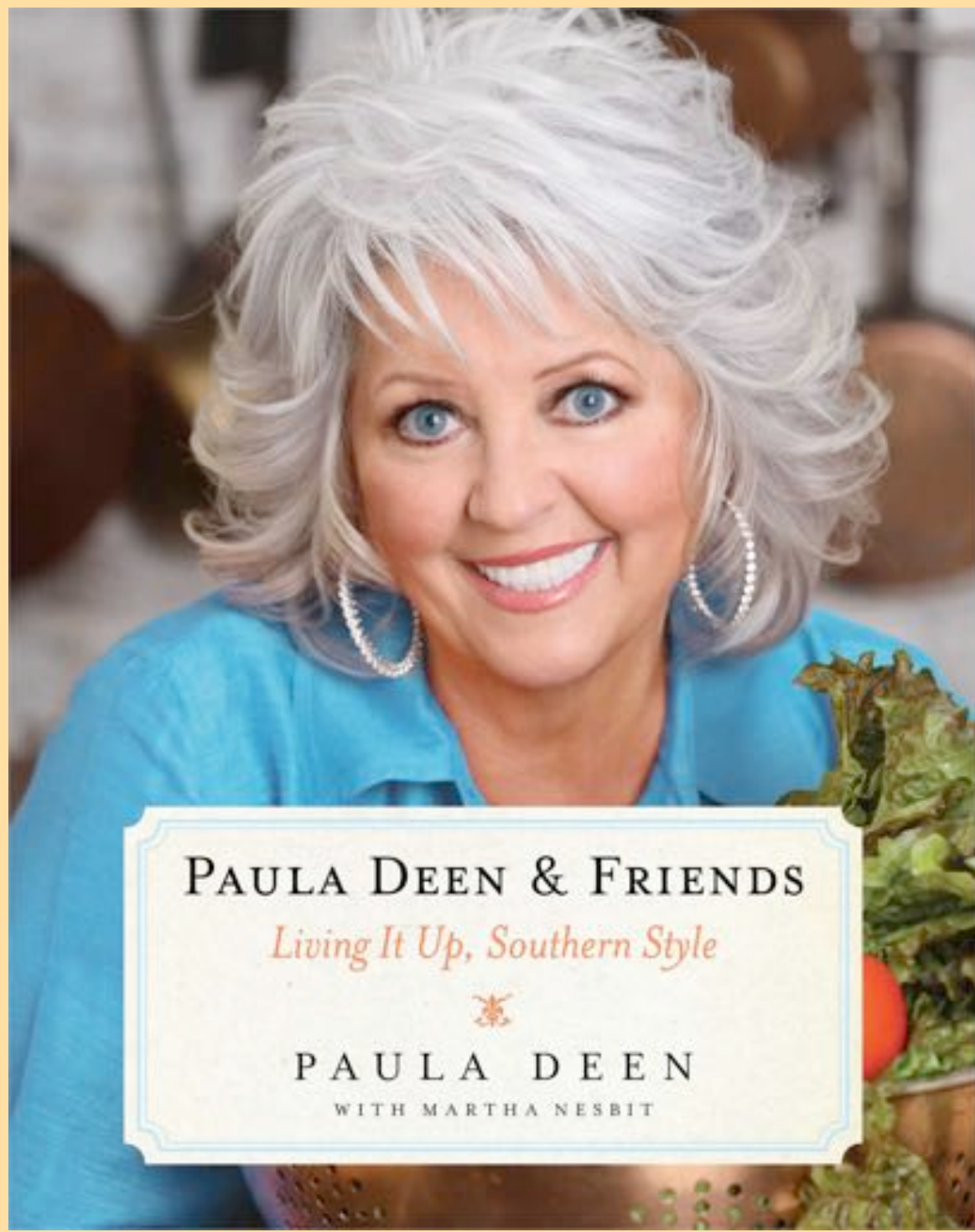
- Peter Leithart

WHAT HOSPITALITY IS NOT



Dinner Party






PAULA DEEN & FRIENDS
Living It Up, Southern Style
PAULA DEEN
WITH MARTHA NESBIT







When you give a lunch or a dinner, don't invite your friends, your brothers, your relatives, or your rich neighbors, because they might invite you back, and you would be repaid. On the contrary, when you host a banquet, invite those who are poor, maimed, lame, or blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.




- Luke 14:12

Hanging Out with Christians



WHAT IS HOSPITALITY?






Hospitality means primarily the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place.



- Henri Nouwen



Radically ordinary hospitality - those who live it see strangers as neighbors and neighbors as family of God...Those who live out radically ordinary hospitality see their homes not as theirs at all but as God's gift to use for the furtherance of his kingdom. They open doors; they seek out the underprivileged. They know that the gospel comes with a house key.



- Rosaria Butterfield

Posture & Presence > Place






Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality.



- Romans 12:13



**Let brotherly love continue. Don't neglect to show hospitality,
for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests
without knowing it.**




- Hebrews 13:2



Throughout Christianity's first four centuries, the church was primarily a domestic phenomenon.



- Alan Kreider



**All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as
Christ, for he himself will say: 'I was a stranger and you
welcomed me.'**



- Rule of St. Benedict





**YOU ARE MORE
THAN ENOUGH.**



INVITATIONS



THE INNER WORK



Inner Barriers

- **Fear**
- **Control**
- **Scarcity Mindset**
- **Pride**
- **Envy**
- **Busyness**



Inner Barriers

- **What did I learn in my own family of origin and church growing up about hospitality?**
- **What are the social norms for hospitality in my peer group and neighborhood & work?**
- **What emotions and desires rise to the surface?**



PRACTICE HOSPITALITY



**What opportunities
do I have this week
to share a meal with
someone?**



This Week's Practice: Neighbor Map

