

Gaius My Host

# Gaius My Host

- Paul's traveling companion with Aristarchus of Macedonia, seized by a mob in Ephesus
  - Acts 19:29 - "So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions."
- Gaius of Derbe, a city in the Roman province of Galatia in Asia Minor, in the region of Lycaonia, is named as one of Paul's seven traveling companions who waited for him at Troas
  - Acts 20:4 - "And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia--also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia."

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- Gaius resided for a time in Corinth as one of a few people baptized by Paul, along with Crispus and the household of Stephanas
  - 1Cor. 1:14 - “I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius”
- Gaius, while living in Corinth, was Paul's host and also host of the whole church
  - Rom. 16:23 - “Gaius, my host and the host of the whole church, greets you.”

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- Gaius settled in Ephesus and was addressed by John - 3John
  - Says a great deal about the moral courage and character as Ephesus was the place where he was seized by a mob
  - Speaks of the excellence with which he practiced hospitality

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- Gaius is a Latin personal name which was the second most common name in Roman history (Lucius is first). The feminine form is Gaia.
- Gaius is derived from gaudere meaning “to rejoice” (Julius Paris, Concerning Praenomina)
- The Celtic people adopted and adapted the name as Cae which came to be the modern form of the name Kay

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- He was very likely a Gentile, born in a Roman province, and may have held Roman citizenship like Paul.
- He was baptized by Paul and traveled and quickly began working with him as an evangelist, suggesting he had some familiarity with Judaism.
- John adopted him in the faith similar to the way Paul adopted Timothy, indicating that he was a younger man.
- His reputation for hospitality indicates that he was a man of means enabling him to own a place that could support himself and guests, as well as the whole congregation for worship.

# Christian Courtesy

- Greeting with spiritual affection
  - 3John 2 - “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.”
  - Phil. 1:1-6 - “Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

# Christian Courtesy

- Adopting spiritual children
  - 1Cor. 4:15 - “For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.”
  - 1Tim. 1:2 - “To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.”



# Christian Courtesy

- Making preachers a part of your family
  - 3John 7-8 - “Because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. 8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.”
  - Gal. 6:6 - “Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.”
  - Titus 3:13 - “Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing.”

# Christian Courtesy

- Phil. 1:7-8 - “Just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. 8 For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.”
- Matt. 10:41 - “He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.”

# Christian Courtesy

- Serving the Lord with distinction
  - 3John 3-6 - “For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. 5 Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, 6 who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well”

# Christian Courtesy

- Matt. 5:14-16 - “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
- 1Thes. 2:19-20 - “For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? 20 For you are our glory and joy”

# Christian Courtesy

- Are you encouraged by the good examples and kind works of others? How could you be encouraged if they hid them as thoroughly as you hide yours?
- There is a difference between boasting of good deeds and letting good deeds be seen to speak for themselves.
  - Prov. 20:6 - “Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, But who can find a faithful man?”

# Christian Courtesy

- Treat strangers as friends
  - Note that John said Gaius treated brethren and strangers alike.
  - 3John 5 - “Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers.”
  - Heb. 13:2 - “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.”

# Christian Courtesy

- Gen. 18:3 - "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant."
- Matt. 25:35 - " I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in"
- Rom. 12:13 - "Distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality."
- 1Tim. 3:2 - " A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach"
- 1Peter 4:9 - " Be hospitable to one another without grumbling."

# Christian Courtesy

- Spend time in company with disciples
  - 3John 13-14 - “I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink; 14 but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face. Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name”
  - 2John 12 - “Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.”



# Christian Courtesy

- Christians make it a point to acknowledge all others.
  - 3John 14 - “But I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face. Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.”
  - 1Cor. 16:19-20 - “The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. 20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.”

# Christian Courtesy

- Some tend to acknowledge friends and brethren only.
  - Matt. 5:47 - “And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?”

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- “In Ireland, you go to someone's house, and she asks you if you want a cup of tea. You say no, thank you, you're really just fine. She asks if you're sure. You say of course you're sure, really, you don't need a thing. Well, she says then, I was going to get myself some anyway, so it would be no trouble. Ah, you say, well, if you were going to get yourself some, I wouldn't mind a spot of tea at that, so long as it's no trouble and I can give you a hand in the kitchen. Then you go through the whole thing all over again until you both end up in the kitchen drinking tea and chatting. In America, someone asks you if you want a cup of tea, you say no, and then you don't get any tea. I like the Irish way better.” (C. E. Murphy)

# Gaius My Host

- “Hospitality means primarily the creation of 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. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom without dividing lines.” (Henri J. M. Nouwen)