

Sermon Title: Welcoming Others

Sermon Series: Open House

Scripture: Romans 15:7

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



What could hospitality look like, even if we don't fit the perfect mold of a hospitable person?

Romans 15:7 ESV - Therefore **welcome** one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

1. God is a _____ God

“Something that seemed so small and insignificant—such as a relatively unknown Jewish man dying an unremarkable death at the hands of the Roman Empire—is, in fact, an invitation into a much larger reality. It opens up something of the cavernous depth of meaning of the love, grace, wrath, and compassion of God. It offers fresh faith for the doubter, new hope for the despondent, belonging for the lonely, and salvation for the lost. The cross is not just a commemoration of death, but an invitation to life. At the heart of the atonement is divine hospitality, where God invites the undeserving and unexpected to come home with him.” — (Krish Kandia, “The Incredible Hospitality of Good Friday,” Christianity Today, March 29, 2016, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2018/march-web-only/incredible-hospitality-of-good-friday.html>).

Romans 15:7 ESV Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

2. We are a welcoming people

1 Peter 4:9 ESV Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

Romans 12:13 ESV Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Romans 14:1 ESV As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.

I'm going to inconvenience myself because Jesus inconvenienced himself.

Be hospitable, because God has been _____ to you

Tips for being hospitable:

1. Know Yourself

Matthew 14:23 ESV - And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

A. What are your limitations?

B. What fills your tank?

C. What _____ you out?

2. Be hospitable, not a _____

3. Invite others into what you are _____

Matthew 4:19 ESV- And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

4. Ask "How can I show them _____?"

JOHN PRABHAKAR shares "*Hospitality calls us to fight. God wrestles our hearts to win us through ordinary words in ordinary homes over ordinary meals.*"

<https://in.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-simple-power-of-christian-hospitality/>

Care (Meet the needs)

Love (Build the relationship), and

Share (Invite them to know Jesus)

Be hospitable because God has been hospitable to you

Group Discussion Questions

Getting to Know You:

1. When you think of Hospitality, does hosting or being hospitable come to mind?

2. Tell about a time since this series started when you've tried to be more hospitable.

Into the Bible:

Read Romans 15:1-7

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. 3 For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." 4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

3. What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?

4. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?

5. Do you like to think of hospitality as a command or suggestion from God?

6. What is the cost of hospitality for you? For God?

7. How does the cross show you the hospitable love of God?

8. How might you meditate on the crucifixion this week? How might the cross inform your own practices of welcoming others?

For Extra Study, Read Luke 24:13–35

13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” 19 And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. 22 Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” 25 And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. 28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, 29 but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” 33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

9. How was Christ hospitable towards these disciples?

10. How are discipleship and hospitality linked in these passages?

11. From this passage, what are some ways God is hospitable?

12. What do you find challenging about trusting God?

13. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?

14. Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

Application Questions

15. What stresses you out about hospitality? After you have been hospitable, what could you do to “fill your tank?”

16. What are some things you already do that you could invite people to do with you?

17. What are your plans to make your own house more open?

18. How can this group help each other with hospitality? How could you be hospitable with each other?