

WE VALUE HOSPITALITY

Welcome Home: Part 2

October 9, 2022

Pastor Brian

“We put the needs of the lost ahead of the preferences of the found. Therefore, we create worship environments that make it easy to find and follow Jesus.”

“Always be eager to practice hospitality.” (Romans 12:13b, NLT)

What is hospitality?

MOSSOLONIAN DEFINITION:

“demonstrating love by WELCOMING others into our gatherings.”

Why do it?

While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch of Syria, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers: “Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved.”² Paul and Barnabas disagreed with them, arguing vehemently. Finally, the church decided to send Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem, accompanied by some local believers, to talk to the apostles and elders about this question...⁴ When they arrived in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul were welcomed by the whole church, including the apostles and elders. They reported everything God had done through them [on their mission trip].⁵ But then some of the believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and insisted, “The [non-Jewish] converts must be circumcised and required to follow the law of Moses.”

⁶ So the apostles and elders met together to resolve this issue. ⁷ At the meeting, after a long discussion, Peter stood and addressed them as follows: “Brothers, you all know that God chose me from among you some time ago to preach to the [non-Jews] so that they could hear the Good News and believe. ⁸ God knows people’s hearts, and he confirmed that he accepts [non-Jews] by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. ⁹ He made no distinction between us and them, for he cleansed their hearts through faith. ¹⁰ So why are you now challenging God by burdening the [non-Jewish] believers with a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors were able to bear? ¹¹ We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus.”

¹² Everyone listened quietly as Barnabas and Paul told about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done through them among the [non-Jews].

¹³ When they had finished, James stood and said, “Brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Peter has told you about the time God first visited the [non-Jews] to take from them a people for himself...¹⁹ “And so my judgment is that we should not make it difficult for the [non-Jews] who are turning to God. ²⁰ Instead, we should write and tell them to abstain from eating food offered to idols, from sexual immorality, from eating the meat of strangled animals, and from consuming blood. (Acts 15:1–20, NLT)

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE: ACCOMMODATION

HOW OAK RIDGE PRACTICES HOSPITALITY

1. We **WELCOME** everyone.
2. We match the **STYLE** of our music to those we are trying to reach.
3. We make the Bible easy to **UNDERSTAND** and **APPLY** to everyday life.
4. We program for the **NEEDS** of today's family.

TRUTH: Every Sunday is **SOMEONE'S FIRST!**

HOW CAN I HAVE A GUEST-FIRST ATTITUDE?

*"Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself **what you want** people to do for you; then grab the initiative and **do it for them!**" (Luke 6:31, The Message)*

GREET everyone warmly.

*"**Greet each other warmly** in the Lord." (2 Corinthians 13:12, The Living Bible)*

*"**Don't neglect to show hospitality**, for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:2, HCSB)*

Principle: You cannot win your **ENEMIES** to Christ; you can only win your friends.

UNDERSTAND people compassionately.

*"...We need to be **sensitive** to the fact that we're not all at the same level of **understanding**..." (1 Corinthians 8:7, The Message)*

*"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. **Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.**" (1 Peter 4:8-9, ESV)*

You cannot be too simple to be used by God, but you can be too **BUSY**.

EMBRACE change positively.

*"And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the wine would burst the wineskins, and the wine and the skins would both be lost. **New wine calls for new wineskins.**" (Mark 2:22, NLT)*

If you're not being stretched, then you're growing **STALE**.

SERVE others humbly.

*"...**serve each other with humble spirits**, for God gives special blessings to those who are humble, but sets himself against those who are proud." (1 Peter 5:5, The Living Bible)*

TREAT everyone respectfully.

“They sent some of their followers and some of Herod’s followers to say to him, “Teacher, we know that you are honest. You teach the truth about what God wants people to do. And you treat everyone with the same respect, no matter who they are.” (Matthew 22:16, CEV)

“Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers...” (1 Peter 2:17, NIV)

ACTION STEPS

Sign up for 1st Base.

“[The] righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? ...And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it unto me!’” (Matthew 25:37–40, NLT)