

What Hospitality Isn’t¹

It’s not hosting (or entertaining)

It’s not a technique

It’s not serving people hand and foot when they come over

What it is: φιλοξενία – literally “stranger love.” Meaning, “to receive a guest.” (Hebrews 13:2)

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

Hebrews 13:2 – Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers...

1 Peter 4:8-9 – Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.⁹ Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. (NLT)

1 Timothy 3:2 – Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach.

Titus 1:7-8 For an overseer, as God’s steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain,⁸ but hospitable...

The Hospitality of the Creator

Matthew 5:43-48 You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Leviticus 19:9-10 When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest.¹⁰ And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 19:18-19 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.¹⁹ Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

Note on OT hospitality – “Someone walks in the city gate, everyone knows it’s a stranger.” - Scheibe

¹ Credit to Clarke Scheibe’s lecture on hospitality for a lot of well-marinated thinking on hospitality.

The Hospitality of the Redeemer

Matthew 9:10-11 And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

Jesus was hospitable without a home.

Jesus’ ultimate hospitality is offering himself to us, as the bread and cup from which we drink.

Jesus hospitality is in his welcoming of all who come to him

Phil 2:17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

The Hospitality of the Christian

The cost of hospitality

Hospitality is costly because the world is bent against it. God designed the other as someone to be loved and welcomed, not someone to compete against and whom we should fear.

Hospitality is costly because we become vulnerable in opening our home.

Hospitality is costly because people see our warts. We are inconsistent, frail, and sinful at best.

Questions for Personal Study

1. How is God the perfect example of hospitality?
2. What would be the cost for you to practice hospitality more in your life?
3. How does hospitality further the kingdom of God?
4. ACTION CHALLENGE – Invite a stranger (neighbor, coworker, other?) to an **ordinary** meal in your home in the next two months. Also, consider serving on the new and improved coffee team.

