

“Hospitality at Church and Chick-fil-A”

This past Friday Lora and I took a drive to Gresham to take my mom to lunch. We took her to Chick-fil-A. It's close to her home, we all like it, and we have not been there in a while. A few of my siblings, and their kids, joined us for the visit as well.

As I sat visiting with family, I was also enjoyed visiting with the manager and some of the employees. They were all very nice and gracious. I also noticed that they came to the table regularly to ask if we needed anything, any refills on drinks, any trash to be removed, any extra Chick-fil-A sauce (always yes).

For the past 80 years Chick-fil-A has always prioritized hospitality. But 25 years ago, hospitality became a higher priority after some training with Ritz-Carlton. As I watched the examples of serving unfold before me, I was intrigued, and intrigued as I considered how this kind of attitude and priority could be applied to the church.

The employees consistently demonstrated hospitality, and made guests feel valued and cared for. They asked how they could help or serve. They maintained eye contact and were personally engaging and smiling. Instead of responding with “You’re welcome,” they replied “My pleasure.”

Is this something that *could* happen in the church? Yes, and people would notice.

Is this something that *should* happen in the church? Yes, but not because we want to be like Chick-fil-A, but because we want to glorify God by being obedient to Him as many various passages in Scripture instruct us to be hospitable and caring people who serve others.

Pastor Mike
“between Sundays”