

THE ANATOMY OF A THRIVING CHURCH:

Moving from Survival Mode to FLOURISHING

Week 2: HOSPITALITY -Part 1

LAST WEEK IN REVIEW



What Is The Difference Between Surviving and Thriving?

SURVIVING

What's necessary to exist?

Satisfied

Day-to-Day focused

Life seen through limitations

Often characterized by worry

Coping

THRIVING

What's necessary to grow?

Progressively content

Future-oriented

Life seen through possibilities

Often characterized by trust

Flourishing



The problem

Just like people, churches can fall into unhealthy patterns of survival mode that do not promote vitality and growth.

The Four “T’S” OF SURVIVAL MODE



1. TRAUMA
2. TRANSITION
3. TRADITION
4. TROUBLE

Autopsy of a dying church

1. The past is all there is. The past is all there will be.
2. The church refused to look like the community.
3. The budget is internally focused.
4. Reaching people takes a back seat to keeping people.
5. Preference is most important.
6. Toxic culture for Pastor.

Autopsy of a dying church

7. Stopped praying **TOGETHER.**
8. Lacked clear purpose.
9. The “Idol of Image.” – *“Brand before mission.”*
10. Church refused to reflect.
11. Unaddressed cultural trauma and/or toxicity.

The Problem of the “Unkind Church”

- Only 21% of American non-Christians have a positive perception of the local church.
- What makes you doubt Christianity – Barna Group:
 - i. Negative past experiences with Church – 83%
 - ii. Hypocrisy of Christians – 80%
 - iii. Negative reputation of the Church – 68%

The Problem of the “Unkind Church”

- 48% of millennials (22-36) and 40% of Gen Xers (37-55) view local church as judgmental.

**GOD'S DESIRE IS FOR THE
CHURCH – THE BODY OF CHRIST –
TO BE A STRIVING REFLECTION
OF GOD'S CHARACTER, LOVE,
AND VISION FOR THE WORLD.**

Matthew 5:13-16 (The Message Bible)

¹³ “Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ “Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world.

Matthew 5:13-16 (The Message Bible)

God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill.

If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives.

Matthew 5:13-16 (The Message Bible)

By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up to God, this generous Father in heaven.

— HOSPITALITY IS ONE
WAY WE – THE
CHURCH – REFLECT
GOD'S CHARACTER,
LOVE, AND VISION
FOR THE WORLD.



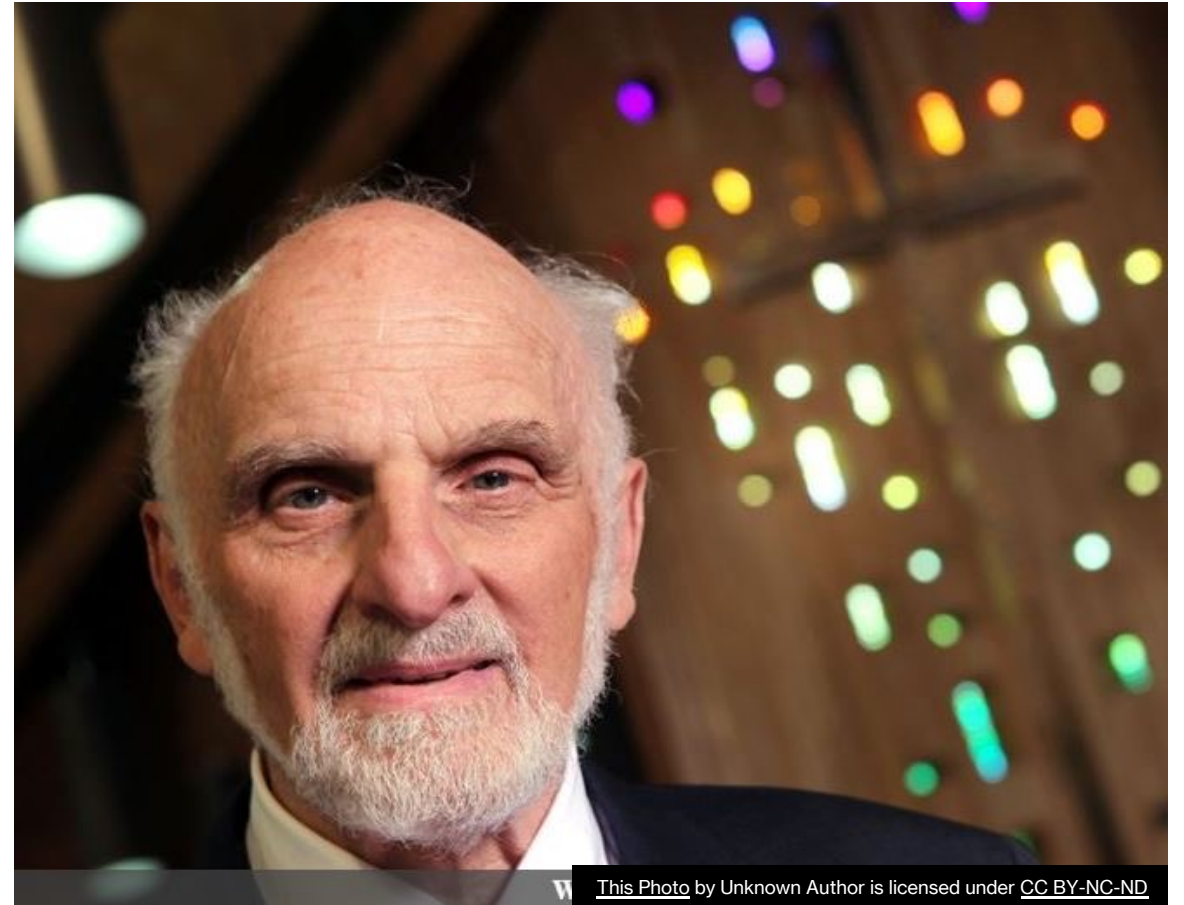
ROMANS 15:7

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you for the glory of God.

**“WHAT IS THIS
HOSPITALITY
THING?”**

Walter Brueggemann

- Hospitality rooted in
journey to “common
good.”



“The great crisis among us is the crisis of the ‘common good,’ the sense of community solidarity that binds all in a common destiny – have and have-nots, the rich and the poor....there are powerful forces at work among us to resist the common good...*[Believers], at their best, are people committed to the common good that reaches beyond private interest, transcends sectarian commitments, and offers human solidarity.*”

Walter Fluker

- Hospitality involves “facing the other as we face ourselves.”
- At the heart of hospitality is civility that aims “to create networks of reciprocity and social capital based on trust.”



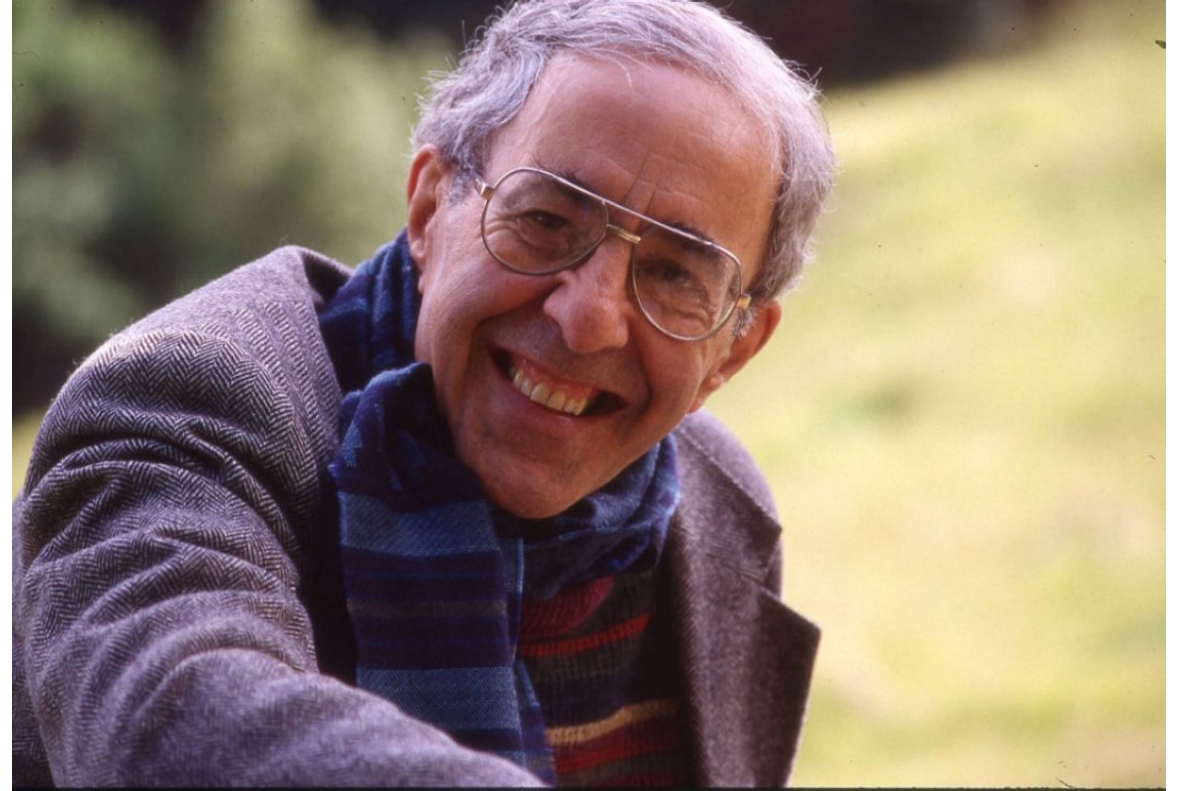


Hospitality is the practice of God's
welcome by reaching across
difference to participate in God's
actions bringing justice and healing
to our world in crisis.

— *Letty M. Russell* —

Henri Nouwen

- “Hospitality means...the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend...Hospitality is not to change people but to offer them space where change can take place.”



Hospitality as Holiness

- The story at the center of the Old Testament is one of God's unfolding of hospitality to the people of Israel. Followed by God's injunction that God's people be neighborly to others.
- Part of holiness is wholeness within the community.

THE “HOLINESS CODES”

- Leviticus chapters 17-26
- Holiness seen as the character of God, originates in God's nature.
- Holiness is less about perfection, more about fullness and satisfaction.
- Holiness is about what we have been freed to do than what we can't do.

THE “HOLINESS CODES”

- Collection of secular, ritualistic, moral, communal, and festival revelations.
- Guidelines for how we can act into our Godlikeness and pursue wholeness and fullness
- One of the areas emphasized in the holiness codes is hospitality – how God’s people are to welcome/relate to others, esp. newcomers.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Homework

1. Read "Holiness Codes" - Leviticus 19.
2. Ask yourself: Why does this matter for community?
What did you learn about hospitality? How is hospitality described? What is the relationship between holiness and hospitality? Where do you see Lincoln Heights Church/yourself in this?
3. Come prepared to share.