

THE ANATOMY OF A THRIVING CHURCH:

Moving from Survival Mode to FLOURISHING

Week 4: HOSPITALITY -Part 2 Continued

LAST WEEK IN REVIEW



**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 with 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. (NRSV)

So reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it; now you do it! (MSG)

**“WHAT IS THIS
HOSPITALITY
THING?”**



welcome

7 HEIGHTS PILLARS

HOSPITALITY

is the first of the

7 HEIGHTS PILLARS

of **LHMBC'S CORE VALUES** as part of

Pastor Cook's Vision for our church

**ENSURE THAT ALL WORSHIPPERS
(IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL) HAVE
THE “HEIGHTS EXPERIENCE”**

**ESTABLISHING A CULTURE OF
EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME WITHIN
MINISTRIES**

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 more 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.

HOLINESS CODES

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Why does this matter for community?
2. What did you learn about hospitality?
3. How is hospitality described?
4. What is the relationship between holiness and hospitality?
5. Where do you see Lincoln Heights Church/yourself in this?

THE HOLY WORK OF HOSPITALITY



Leviticus 19:9-10

⁹ “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.”

Leviticus 19:33-34

³³ “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. ³⁴ The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”

1. Hospitality is Intentional - 19:9-10

Observation

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God

1. Hospitality is Intentional - 19:9-10

Interpretation

- We cannot **assume** that our kindness is a given. We must **act** our kindness into being.
- Hospitality doesn't just happen. **Hospitality requires effort and planning.**

1. Hospitality is Intentional - 19:9-10

Application

- What ways will we intentionally make our church a place where God's welcome can be felt and experienced?
- How are we intentionally addressing barriers that we know prevent people from becoming a part of our community? How do we respond when we fail?

2. Hospitality Meets the Need of the Other- 19:9-10

Observation

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall **leave them for the poor and the alien**: I am the LORD your God

2. Hospitality Meets the Need of the Other- 19:9-10

Interpretation

- We must be aware of the specific needs of the other in order to extend hospitality.
- Hospitality is not just to make us feel good. It is to make our environment a good space for growth.

2. Hospitality Meets the Need of the Other- 19:9-10

Application

- What needs are we aware of in our community that our hospitality as a church could meet?
- [Father's Day: A Kirk Franklin Story – YouTube](#)

3. Hospitality Is Not “Difference Blind” - 19:9-10

Observation

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall **leave them for the poor and the alien**: I am the LORD your God.

- “Stranger,” “poor” ”alien” – political category

3. Hospitality Meets the Need of the Other- 19:9-10

Interpretation

- Hospitality is not simply about treating “everybody the same” or ignoring differences.
- Hospitality manages differences with **care.**

3. Hospitality Meets the Need of the Other- 19:9-10

Application

- What does it mean for LHMBC to “manage differences with care?” What would it look like?

4. Hospitality Resists the Insider- Outsider Divide - 19:33-34

Observation

³³ “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. ³⁴ The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”

4. Hospitality Resists the Insider- Outsider Divide - 19:33-34

Interpretation

“In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.”

“In Christ shall true hearts ev’rywhere
their high communion find.
His service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.”

4. Hospitality Resists the Insider- Outsider Divide - 19:33-34

Application

- We are hospitable when we treat newcomers as integral parts of our community.
- This means treating people as if they are valuable and bring value with them.

5. Hospitality Is A Response to God

- 19:33-34

Observation

³³ “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. ³⁴ The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; **you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”**

5. Hospitality Is A Response to God

- 19:33-34

Interpretation

- Two part command of God about aliens:

You shall not do this and you shall do this this. Just because they aren't like us, we should not treat them poorly. We love aliens by extending like benefits.

5. Hospitality Is A Response to God **- 19:33-34**

- Interpretation

Philoxenia – Greek word which literally translated as a “friend to a stranger” which is hospitality as a response to God.

5. Hospitality Is A Response to God

- 19:33-34

Application

- We are hospitable as a response to God's command to fairly treat vulnerable people such as immigrants to our community.
- We are hospitable in response to God when we seek to find ways to accommodate language barriers.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

