



HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

AGE-OLD QUESTION

Is hospitality a ‘Gospel Issue?’

Is hospitality a matter that restricts the effectiveness of the Gospel presentation?

Can hospitality enhance or inhibit the presentation of the Gospel?

TWO EXAMPLES

A not-so-clear example

An incredibly, super, mega clear example

THIS IS NOT...

1. A list of church-growth guru tips and tricks
2. A rebuke for failure
3. An iron-clad plan with guarantees

This is not New for the church

This is Normal for the church

OLD TESTAMENT ROOTS

Leviticus 19:33-34

When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself,

OLD TESTAMENT ROOTS

Leviticus 19:33-34

for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I
am the Lord your God.

OLD TESTAMENT ROOTS

Deuteronomy 10:18

He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing.

NEW TESTAMENT FRUIT

Romans 12:9-13

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

NEW TESTAMENT FRUIT

Romans 12:9-13

rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing *hospitality*.

NEW TESTAMENT FRUIT

Hebrews 13:2

Do not neglect to show hospitality to
strangers, for by this some have entertained
angels without knowing it.

NEW TESTAMENT FRUIT

Hospitality Defined

Philo – friend; a trusted *confidant*, held dear in a close bond of personal affection

Xenos – a stranger

Philoneksía - warmth (friendliness) shown to strangers

NEW TESTAMENT FRUIT

See also: 1 Peter 4:9 Titus 1:8

Ephesians 2:12

remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and *strangers* to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

CHURCH INVENTION?

Greek Hospitality

Xenia – translated “lodging”

Acts 28:23, Philemon v22 - “guest”

CHURCH INVENTION?

Greek culture highly valued *Xenia*

Restrictions based on social status

Mutual benefit and gift exchange

Reciprocal

Honor seeking system

CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY

NT Christian Hospitality was considered radical

Welcomed poor, sick, unequals, orphans,
strangers (Lk. 10:25-37)

Provided for guests needs (Lk. 10:4ff)

Non-transactional (Lk. 6:33)

Worship based motivation (Matt. 25:35)

CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY

Hospitality became a
Defining mark of the early
church.

THAT AGE-OLD QUESTION

“Gospel issue” – whether one is saved or not

Matt. 25:31ff

Hospitality is the vehicle the Gospel travels in