

Titus 1:7-9 Lesson 6

October 25/27, 2022

The Biblical Mandate for Hospitality, the Missing Crown Jewel

I. Why Study the Qualifications of Elders and Pastors?

Three basic areas: 1. His marriage and family 2. His character 3. His devotion to hold fast to the word of God in order to proclaim and protect the truth. **Church Leaders are men who know the way (biblical knowledge), show the way (godly example), and go the way (disciples making disciples).**

II. The Biblical Mandate for Hospitality

“Secular entertaining is a terrible bondage. Its source is human pride. Demanding perfect, fostering the urge to impress, it is a rigorous taskmaster which enslaves. In contrast, scriptural hospitality is a freedom which liberates. Entertaining says, I want to impress you with my beautiful home, my clever decorating, my gourmet cooking. Hospitality, however, seeks to minister. It says this home is not mine. It is truly a gift from my Master. I am His servant and I use it as He desires. Hospitality doesn’t try to impress, but to serve.” ***Karen Mains***

Hospitality: lover of strangers. fond of guests. Practically it describes one who is given to generous, welcoming, and cordial reception of visitors, guests, or strangers. It means to give practical help to anyone who is in need, friend or stranger, believer, or unbeliever. The **hospitable** freely offers his time, resources, and his encouragement to meet the needs of others.

“As Christians we need to rediscover this teaching on hospitality and awaken us to our scriptural duty to practice hospitality. We need a fresh vision of hospitality’s potential for strengthening our churches and for reaching our neighbor and friends with the gospel.” ***Strauch***

A. Romans 12

Lenski, "Hospitality is literally to be chased after as one hunts an animal and delights to carry the booty home."

B. 1 Peter 4

Christian hospitality is not a matter of choice, it is not a matter of money, not a matter of age, social standing, sex, or personality. Christian hospitality is a matter of obedience to God.

III. The Blessings and Rewards

A. Hebrews 13:1-2

B. 3 John 1: 5-8

IV. Hospitality, a Launching Pad for the Gospel

Such hospitality sees our homes as not our own, but as God's tools for the furtherance of his kingdom as we welcome those who look, think, believe, and act differently from us into our everyday, sometimes messy lives—helping them see what true Christian faith really looks like.
Rosaria Butterfield

“Christianity was, and still should be, the religion of the open door.” Wm Barclay

V. Times to Refuse

2 John 10:1-2

1 Cor. 5:11-13

POA's

- What are the differences between Christian hospitality compared to the world's ideas of hospitality are quite different.
- What most hinders you from actively practicing hospitality?
- List several people who would be in need and who would be greatly encouraged by your hospitality.
- List any advantages of meeting in a home rather than in a church building for fellowship, prayer, bible study, evangelism, or discipleship.
- Now set dates for inviting each of them over for a meal, coffee, and or a time of fellowship.
- What can you do to make newcomers to your church experience a loving Christian experience?
- Do you see how using your home for hospitality can be a launching pad for the gospel? List the names of your immediate neighbors who you have invited to your home for a meal, bible study, Christmas tea, etc.
- Now list the names of your neighbors that you would like to invite during the next few months. Start praying for them, ask your small group to pray along with you. Try to plan to invite at least one of them over in the next few weeks.
- Don't let your good intentions go without execution.

Helpful Hints for Hospitality: Pray, Plan and Prepare

1. Pray. Like any other ministry it must be immersed in prayer. Pray for the unexpected as well.
2. Plan ahead. Unless you plan you may never get past the good intention level. One busy week turns into another.
3. Make a list of people who need a dose of biblical love and encouragement by your offer of hospitality. New people in church, those going suffering or going through trials, church leaders, etc.
4. Identify neighbors. Use your home is a launching pad for the gospel.
5. Use the holidays. These are esp. good times to invite unbelieving family, friends, or neighbors. Plan an evangelistic outreach in the neighborhood such as a Christmas Tea.
6. Collect simple recipes, make double and freeze. Expense is an issue for many of us, find inexpensive recipes.
7. Keep your home clean and orderly. This is esp. helpful when those unexpected guests show up.
8. Be content with the home God has blessed you with and use it. Hospitality is serving the Lord, unlike entertainment.
9. Be willing to use your home to house missionaries, visiting pastors, traveling servants of the Lord.
10. Be interested in your guest's lives. Ask key questions to make the time spent meaningful.
11. Make your guests feel special. When they leave do they feel like they have been a burden or a blessing to you?
12. Read books on the subject and talk to others who you see practicing hospitality. *"Open Heart, Open Home"* Karen Mains; *"L'Abri"* Edith Schaeffer; *"The Hospitality Commands"* Strauch
13. Lastly, be excited about the ways God will shape and mold you and expect to be richly blessed.