

A Biblical Foundation for Hospitality

What is the biblical basis for our practice of hospitality?

- The bible begins and ends with God making a home with humanity.

- The implication – God has made us a place hospitable for meeting Him and to be reconciled to Him.

Hospitality Puts Flesh on the Gospel

- When we invite unbelievers into our homes and lives, what are we saying to them about Jesus?

- What happens when a person feels included, invited, cared for, recognized, and enfolded into the warmth of relationship?

- What are some cultural factors that keep people isolated?

- How do you think most Americans view the church?
 - As a place of acceptance, love, and help?
 - As a place of judgement, rejection, and hurt?

How can Christians Respond?

- Much of what we've done "defensively" is the spiritual equivalent of yelling at the driver who just cut you off in traffic.

- We need something more effective than outrage, despair, and escapism to reach this culture with the gospel – love, grace, truth.

- Why do you think it’s easier to disagree with others from a distance or from behind the safety of a screen and keyboard than it is to love our actual neighbors?
 - Dan White Jr. – “When you live in culture war mode, there’s always a battle to fight, a side to take, and people to fear. When you live in God’s kingdom, there’s always a stranger to welcome, a neighbor to befriend, and an enemy to love.”

Application

- What one step can you take this week toward the practice of Christian hospitality?
 - Assess how it went.
 - What did you learn?
 - What would you do differently next time?
 - What would you do the same?