
INTRODUCTION

- Review: (1.) the pastors' role (2.) unity and diversity (3.) the proper attitude/classification of gifts
 - What is the ordinary context of the discovery of the gifts?
 - One of the spheres is the gathered church; some gifts are exercised there in a more public way (teaching-serving)
 - I would encourage to see if there is a place of service by asking the elders and deacons
 - but that isn't, even in the case of the office of pastor or deacon, the exclusive place
 - The other primary sphere is more personal, and takes place in the home
 - Strauch's The Hospitality Commands – "a missing jewel in the crown of Christianity"
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EXPOSITION

- Gk. Philoxenos = lit. "lover of strangers"; someone that is not a natural part of the household, to take in for short or longer term; includes meal, conversation, general needs

I. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF HOSPITALITY**A. From The Life Of OC Saint**

- Abraham – Gen18:1; Lot – Gen19:1; Job – Job31:32; "Wisdom" in Pro9; Rahab the harlot – Jos6:17; widow of Zeraphath and Elijah – 1King17:10

B. From the Ministry of Jesus

- Lk10:38 Martha; Lk11:37 Matthew; Mt8:14 Peter; Lk8:3 women who provided for the Lord from their substance; Pharisees, though they took Him in merely to trap Him
- To "take in" for food, clothing, and shelter is to take in Christ – Mt25:38; to take in those of the body of Christ

C. From the History of the NC Church

- Simon the tanner (Acts9:43), Lydia (Act16:15), Philemon (Phil22), Gaius (Rom16:23); even pagans (Act28:2)
- especially keeping up of the messengers of God; to become partners in the Gospel in that way

II. BIBLICAL COMMANDS TO HOSPITALITY

- this responsibility goes beyond example, but we find direct commands

A. TEXT #1 - Romans 12:13

- Follows call to exercise gifts (from last week); not seen as a separate and distinct gift, but to all
- Gk. dioko = pursue, press after, zealously chase, seek after, strive for, run after, practice

B. TEXT #3 - Hebrews 13:2

- Gk. epilanthanomai = forget, neglect, overlook; not to recall information on a certain matter; fail to do because of neglect or forgetfulness

C. TEXT #2 - 1Peter 4:9

- Gk. allaylon = one another; the church, the spiritual family
- Gk. gongusmos = grumble, complain, whisper, quarrel; express dissatisfaction; to express discontent
- In showing hospitality and getting close to people, there will be things which arise to complain about
- This is where longsuffering, forgiveness, and compassion is needed
- The opposite of this is to do so gladly, cheerfully, with joy

[STOP HERE IF AROUND 1 HOUR!]

APPLICATION

- Will you be obedient to the command of Scripture? Are you under the Lordship of Christ, and desire to express that love by obedience to His commandments? Will you pursue, not overlook, and do so cheerfully?

1.) Recognize that hospitality will cost you

- Money, time, effort; make a modest and reasonable plan to begin to have the families and individuals in the church over; don't wait until last minute, but schedule ahead
- this assumes a priority; it is easy to get our schedules so filled up with events and activities (i.e. sports) that there is just no time;
- sometimes it is greediness of our time and resources and "comfort zone" that keeps others out; it will expose selfishness, and further sanctify us

- recognize hindrances, and find out how to overcome hindrances: time, finances, selfishness, fear, inexperience, lack of organization, pride
- 2.) Keep hospitality simple**
 - it is costly, but it doesn't have to be expensive
 - Martha, Mary's sister, so taken with a complex meal, missed sitting at the Lord's feet
 - make it simple; keep a collection of simple meals; don't let pride keep you from making it a joy; open up a can of soup and make a sandwich; not a complex dinner party, but desire more than anything is fellowship with the Lord's people
- 3.) Make your home hospitable**
 - make your home people/children friendly; not a museum; a degree of self-denial; be willing to learn change
 - on the other side, when you receive hospitality, keep watch on children, be polite, use manners
- 4.) We are commanded to show hospitality, not be shown it**
 - take personal responsibility; if you feel disconnected or distant, then do something about it
- 5.) Hospitality is not just a "woman thing", but primarily the responsibility of the man**
 - 1Tim3:2; Tit1:8 – qualification of elders; the emphasis is on the man, not his wife; the man is the manager of his home
 - you must seek to do those things which will enable your wife to show hospitality; financial provision, planning (if this isn't where her gifts lie)
 - serve your wife by helping, not just putting pressure on her
 - on the Lord's Day give her a break from her ordinary labors; YOU help cook the meal, etc.
- 6.) This is also the responsibility of the woman**
 - 1Tim5:9-10 – qualification for supported widows; primarily sphere of keeper of the home – Tit2:5
- 7.) Hospitality is connect to the discovery and use of spiritual gifts**
 - the home and in hospitality is the place to discover spiritual gifts; many assume they don't have any real gifts if they don't do something in the public worship, and neglect exercising their gifts because of not showing hospitality; we have many things to learn from one another – 1Pet4:10
 - this is part of what makes a warm, friendly loving church; it is a mark of genuine Christianity that the people love one another
- 8.) Hospitality is connected to church discipline**
 - One of the "punishments" for those under church discipline is the cutting off of fellowship by way of refusal to eat with; it assumes such a close connection that it would actually cause one grief
 - redeem the opportunity by planning to speak about specific things spiritual
- 9.) Redeem hospitality for spiritual good**
 - Do family worship; keep a guest book
 - learn to ask questions; it isn't a platform to tell everyone about yourself, but to get to know them as guests
- 10.) Show hospitality particularly to those who need it**
 - unlike worldly hospitality, which invites those of influence and power, it reaches to those in greatest need
 - look for those in the church that could use the special time of personal fellowship and ministry, not just people that you are naturally attracted to
 - ministry to new Christians, to model a Christian family and practical Christian living
 - recognize the special opportunities with singles, many of whom haven't had the influence of solid Christian families, family worship, godly parenting; the He sets the solitary in families
 - my trip to Indianapolis, staying with family for hospitality, companionship, sharing of testimonies
- 11.) See hospitality as an opportunity to build bridges for reaching others for Christ**
 - an opportunity to minister to unbelievers – Act10:24 (Cornelius) people who may not come to a church building; an atmosphere which is nonthreatening, informal, comfortable, relaxed, and personal
 - they can see what the Gospel looks like in a home