

Radical Hospitality – Battle for Community

Text: Hebrews 13:1-2 – “Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

Target: It makes sense that God has called us to love Him. It is intuitively RIGHT that God has called us to care for our families. It is even sensible that God has called us to be the kind of people who gather many friends! In OUR world, it is incredibly challenging that God calls us to LOVE strangers. This brings us to our fourth core value: "Hospitality."

- **Working Definition of Hospitality:** The friendly reception of guests. (dictionary.com)
- **CBC Definition:** Hospitality is not just expressed by loving your friends, it is expressed radically by loving strangers.

The word Hospitality is two words in the Bible

(Philo = Love) + (Xenia = Strangers) = Philoxenia: Love to Strangers

Key Verse: “For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.” Titus 1:7-8

Teaching Points: 4 Lenses of Hospitality

1. The Lens of Initiating

Hebrews 13:2 - “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

2. The Lens of Partying

1 Peter 4:9 - “Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.”

3. The Lens of Training

Romans 12:13 - “Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”

4. The Lens of Leading

1 Timothy 3:2 - “Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach....”

Take Away: “Long before the church had pulpits and baptisteries, she had kitchens and dinner tables. Even a casual reading of the New Testament unveils the house as the primary tool of the church. The primary gathering place of the church was the home. The early church (with all its varied backgrounds got along) without the aid of sanctuaries, church buildings, clergy, and seminaries. They did so through the clearest of messages (The Gospel) and the simplest of tools (The Home).” - Max Lucado

Kingdom Breakthrough came from Jerusalem with 120 scared believers waiting in a room for the Holy Spirit of God to come. When it did, they went from 120 scared believers to fifty percent of the population of the planet in 330 years. Rodney Stark - The Triumph of Christianity

Could this happen in San Antonio?