



Bethany Assembly of God

May 17, 2020

- Why is hospitality such an important part of a church's ministry? To whom should we show hospitality and how?
- What is the heart of hospitality? What is it based on, the likeability of a guest or the character of the host?

**We should create a favorable environment for people to connect with God and one another.**

### **1. We can receive sinners.**

#### **Luke 15:1–2**

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

- How should hospitality extend beyond specific ministries or the walls of the church?
- To what extent did Jesus go to welcome sinners?

#### **Luke 9:10–11**

On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing.

- Compassion is one of the underlying principles that enables hospitality? How does compassion lead to welcoming people?

- How can you increase in your compassion toward others?

### **1 Corinthians 1:23**

We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles.

- Paul never compromised the gospel, but He did try to bring it to people in a way that they could understand and receive it. How does this relate to hospitality?
- When Jesus was around sinners, did their sin rub off on Him, or did He change them? How does this apply to our attitude of hospitality toward sinners?
- How can you be more welcoming to sinners in a way that introduces them to Jesus?

### **2. We can connect saints.**

- Are the goals of reaching sinners and loving saints at odds? Why?

### **John 17:23**

<sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

- As we look to connect sinners to Jesus, we must also connect saints to one another so that they can grow in Jesus. What are some ways to connect the people of God?

### **1 Peter 4:8–9**

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

**Imagine a church where the welcoming love of God is not only something we talk about feeling in a Sanctuary, but in our homes, where the blessing of God**

**is not only something we experience in a sermon, but in our relationships with one another. That's our vision of hospitality.**

- How can you connect to this vision of hospitality? By participating in a small group when they launch? By hosting one in your home? By becoming a group leader?
- How can you exercise the attitude of 1 Peter 4:8-9 in an “unofficial” capacity as well?
- What brother or sister in Christ can you connect/reconnect with for encouragement and prayer today?