



LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Session VIII: Gospel Hospitality

Gospel hospitality is treating the _____ as equal to the host. The goal of gospel hospitality is to go from being an outsider to being an insider and a part of the family of believers. Simply put, gospel hospitality is loving outsiders and creating an environment where discipleship takes place.

Origins and Foundation of Hospitality:

Old Testament

-Genesis 1 and 2

-Genesis 12-15

-Leviticus 19:9-10, “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.”

-Leviticus 19:33-34, “When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall do him no wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”

This characterizes the primary characteristic of hospitality sprinkled throughout scripture: whatever God has done for you, now do for others.

-Deuteronomy 10:18, “He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.”

New Testament

-Cultural context of the Near East and Jesus’ life

-Ephesians 2:11-19, “¹¹ Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and

strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...”

“The ultimate act of hospitality was when Jesus Christ died for sinners to make everyone who believes a member of the household of God. We are no longer strangers and sojourners. We have come home to God. Everybody who trusts in Jesus finds a home in God.” -John Piper

Be

Become

Do

Questions to consider:

- 1) How does the story of God’s hospitality change your view of hospitality?

- 2) What aspects of hospitality do you most struggle with and why?

- 3) How can your specific missional community create a more hospitable environment for others to experience being, becoming and eventually doing?

Do not confuse _____ with insignificant.