

Introduction

- What was hospitality like in the ancient world?
- What should Christian hospitality look like today?
- "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. (Lev 19:34).
- "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." (Rom 12:13).

Ancient World

- Aliens and strangers had no rights or protection in the ancient world.
- The Greeks saw hospitality as the difference between barbarians and civilization.
- It was expected to offer table fellowship and protection.
- The Greeks would not ask your name or origin until after the meal.
- Israel was to welcome and care for foreigners who came to live in the land or who were traveling through.
- All of the OT rejection of foreigners is geared towards idolatry and false religion.

Old Testament

- Abraham welcomes angels by feeding and housing them (Gen 18).
- Even Lot welcomes angels by offering hospitality (Gen 19).
- Laban wrongly treats Jacob as a foreigner and mistreats him (Gen 31:15).
- Israel is commanded to be hospitable to strangers, remembering their former status as foreigners (Ex 22:21).
- There is only one law for Israel and foreigners (Ex 12:49).
- They are to leave part of their vineyards unharvested for the poor and sojourner (Lev 19:10).
- They are to treat the stranger as a native (Lev 19:34).
- Part of the tithe is to feed the stranger, fatherless, and widows (Deut 14:29).
- God loves the sojourner and gives him food and clothing (Deut 10:18-19).

Foreigner Restrictions

- They cannot eat of the Passover meal (Ex 12:43) nor holy food (Lev 22:10).
- Foreigners may not be crowned king (Deut 17:15).
- They can be charged interest in loans (Deut 23:20).
- The prayer is that foreigners would come to worship God (1 Kings 8:41).
- They can become Israelites if they are circumcized and follow the law.
- They are not to intermarry foreigners so that they do not worship their gods.

New Testament

- Jesus is cared for by the hospitality of strangers for his entire ministry.
- The gospel spreads through the hospitality of unbelievers welcoming the apostles.
- Elders are required to be hospitable people (Titus 1:8; 1 Tim 3:2).
- Older widows who are hospitable should be cared for by the church (1 Tim 5:10).
- The final judgment largely depends on who has been hospitable (Matthew 25:31-46).
- We are commanded to show hospitality without complaining (1 Peter 4:9).
- We are commanded to be hospitable (Romans 12:13).
- We are commanded to be hospitable to strangers who may be angels (Heb 13:2).

How Do We Do it?

- To care for and treat the stranger as family.
- It frequently involves welcoming them to our table.
- It should be sacrificial and costly with no regard for being repaid or fairness.
- Exact rules or legalism about what it looks like are unhelpful.
- How can I seek to be hospitable?
- How can I be like Christ in how I treat this stranger?

Why Should I?

- Because the Bible commands us to.
- Because we were strangers and God has been hospitable to us.
- Because we may welcome angels without knowing it.
- Because every person is made in the image of God.
- Because it reveals our eternal destiny (Matthew 25).
- Because it communicates and images the gospel to a lost world.