

ONE FAMILY: THE SACRED BLEND

Week Three: Practicing Hospitality

Opening: *The Missing Husband*

Text: Romans 12:6-13

OUR VISION

BLENDing the Family of God Together— “The Sacred Blend”

Bringing hearts together to celebrate, encounter, and adore our God. (Worship)

Lending our lives to the faith community. (Partnership)

Engaging in practices for spiritual growth. (Discipleship)

Never giving less than our best to God’s kingdom. (Stewardship)

Devoting ourselves to sharing God’s good news with others. (Friendship)

Hospitality

The Holy Spirit instructs us in scripture to practice hospitality

“Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality” (Romans 12:13). NIV

Contribute to the needs of God’s people sharing in the necessities of the saints pursuing the practice of hospitality . Amplified

When God’s children are in need, be the one to help them out. And get in to the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or if they need lodging, for the night NLT

Interesting phrase “practice” ... when used as a **verb** it means to:

perform an activity or exercise a skill repeatedly or regularly in order to acquire, maintain or improve proficiency in it ... practice makes perfect

When a person is attempting to overcome a habit or an addiction – or even the thinking that past failures mean success will never be reached

they must willing to practice repeatedly a new or modified behavior

The new must replace the old

—————▶ Reading of Abe Lincoln

Paul instructs us to **practice** Hospitality ... to make it a part of our regular lifestyle

But what is hospitality? Lets begin with

(Deuteronomy 10:19) **Caring for Strangers**

“Love the stranger or sojourner for you were once strangers and sojourners in the land of Egypt” (Amp)

—————▶ I grew up in the 1950’s – 1960’s Things were different
 Parental instruction of the 1950 -1960’s *Don’t talk to* _____ **#1** there was also the basic look both ways before you cross the _____ - look before you _____
 Your house could be on fire and not know what to do but you knew not to speak to strangers

Compare to kids of the today and 1980's

Hospitality applies to people we do and don't know ... it takes shape in the form of action

HOSPITALITY IS A LIFESTYLE:

Romans 12:9 *"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good."*

1. Don't confuse hospitality with entertaining . (Titus 1:7-8)

*"Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁸Rather he must be **hospitable**, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined."*

Hospitality in the Bible is more than just having someone over to your house ... which by the way should not be ignored

2. But ... Hospitality has a deeper meaning.

Root words for hospitality "hospital" and "hospice

Our church should serve as a hospital a place for healing - where hurting people are bandaged up on the outside and inside

People all around us are dying:

Dying to get connected, dying to have a friend, dying for affirmation - they need to be touched, they need someone willing to make eye contact - to care about them beyond "How's it goin'?"

Jesus' life demonstrated hospitality – he had no home but he care about people, especially people on the fringe.

Hospitality is reaching out and connecting to others

BECOME A PERSON WHOSE LIFE IS CENTERED ON BLESSING OTHERS:

Romans 12:9-11 *"Don't just pretend you love others really love them. Hate what is wrong stand on the side of good. Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other."*
NLT

Margaret Mead, a renowned anthropologist, was asked ... how you identify the first sign of civilization in any culture. They expected her to suggest the first sign might be a clay pot or a fish hook or a grinding stone, or some other elementary symbol of civilization. Her surprising answer was, "A healed femur." The femur, as you know, is the leg bone above the knee. She explained that we never find evidence of a healed femur where the law of the jungle, survival of the fittest, reigns. A healed femur indicates that someone did an injured person's hunting and gathering for the weeks it took for the bone to heal. This evidence of compassion, she said, is the first sign of real civilization.

1. Compassion reflects the hospitality of a church. (Romans 12:20)

“On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.’”

“Compassion ethical intelligence,” Will Tuttle Ph. D. composer, Musician, and author T. R. Glover said, “The Gospel of Jesus Christ began in **friendship**.”

Jesus did not go about simply teaching lofty theological concepts, or establish some great institution. He became friends with people, all kinds of people.

→ **Why did people flock to Jesus?**

Crowds thronged Him- pressed in to get close – when Jesus spoke there was distance between Him and the people (Mountain top – Get in boat and push away from the shore)

But Jesus would allow the people to get close he made contact with them touched physically and emotionally

Lepers – blind – deaf - dumb - seizures - every kind of ailment including demon possession

2. Random acts of kindness inspire un-churched people. (Proverbs 3:27)

“Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.”

LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO BE GENEROUS TO THOSE AROUND YOU:

Romans 12:12-13

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

1. Spiritual sensitivity . (Hebrews 13:2)

The Scripture gives us a clear challenge—practice hospitality. It says in another place, *“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it”* (Hebrews 13:2).

→ Bruce Larson tells the story of a farmer named Worthy Taylor, who hired a young man named Jim to work for him one summer. Jim had many chores to do around the farm. He milked the cows and chopped the wood, among other things. He ate his meals with the family but slept in the hayloft out in the barn. Over the course of the summer, Jim fell in love with the farmer’s daughter. He finally mustered the courage to ask the farmer for his daughter’s hand in marriage. But Worthy Taylor refused young Jim because he knew the young man did not have any money and did not appear to have bright prospects for the future. Jim packed his belongings and left.

Thirty-five years later, Worthy Taylor was doing quite well. He had prospered as a farmer and decided it was time to build a new barn. In the process of tearing down the old one, Taylor was looking at the rafters above the place where Jim had slept that summer, thirty-five years earlier. There on one of the rafters, Jim had written his entire name—“James A. Garfield.” That name meant something to Worthy Taylor because James A. Garfield had become the 20th president of the United States. Taylor had entertained a future president.

Summary

Hospitality is Love in action that includes:
 Opening your home and heart to friends and strangers
 Having compassion
 Demonstrating love in random acts of kindness (Good Samaritan)
 Being generous in giving
 Becoming Spiritually sensitive

A Letter to Mrs. Bixley, of Boston. November 21, [1864](#)

Dear Madam, I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant-General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom. **Abraham Lincoln**

Hospitality is seeing a need and caring enough to step up and meet it