

Welcome Into My Home

July 19, 2012

Welcome

Difference between entertainment and hospitality

What is hospitality?

- dictionary.com: “the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way.”
- "The spirit that gives life to hospitality is described as encompassing humility and gratitude, arising as a response to God's initiating grace. These texts also describe the spirit accompanying hospitality as one of mercy, compassion, eagerness, liberality, and willingness to risk. Further, this spirit sees beyond the surface to the spiritual dynamics at work through a sense of blessedness, lack of concern for personal gain, and an understanding that God is at work in both host and guest."
- Hospitality is characterized by a particular moral stance in the world that can best be described as readiness. Early Christian voices tell us again and again that whether we are guest or host we must be ready, ready to welcome, ready to enter another's world, ready to be vulnerable." And You Welcomed Me: A Sourcebook on Hospitality in Early Christianity, Amy Oden, pg. 15.

What makes a home inviting?

Why aren't more homes open to others?

- Cultural influences
- Can be scary
- Exposes our own sin
- Costs to self life

- Indifference

"One danger identified by early Christians is a spirit of indifference. It may be the most deadly to the practice of hospitality, for indifference makes one immune to the knock on the door." Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition, Christine D. Pohl, pg. 101

Why open your home?

- Serve Christ and advances God's Kingdom

"Part of our ability to sustain hospitality in the midst of an unjust and disordered world comes from putting small efforts into a larger context. God is at work in the world, and our little but significant moves participate in that work." Making Room, pg. 184

- Concrete expression of God's love
- It will bring you great joy
 - John 13:17
- Gain a greater confidence in God's love
- Good stewards
- Great for children

"If they saw their parents openingtheir home at expense to their furniture and rugs, if they were told to pray not merely for the lost out there somewhere, but for specific people whom they knew sitting at the table in their own home, unreality would be gone."

The Church at the End of the 20th Century, Francis Schaeffer, p. 110

- The watching world

How to get started

- Start a relationship with the Lord
- Repent
- Re-evaluate priorities and values
- Pray

"Hearts can be enlarged by praying that God will give us eyes to see the opportunities around us, and by putting ourselves in places where we are likely to encounter strangers in need." Making Room, pg. 152

- Ask for help, watch and learn
- Plan for it
- Do it

Practical ideas:

- Young children
- Teenagers

Conclusion

"While we might imagine sacrifice in terms of one moment of heroic martyrdom, faithful hospitality usually involves laying our lives down in little pieces, in small acts of sacrificial love and service. Part of the mystery is that while such concrete acts of love are costly, they nourish and heal both giver and recipient." Making Room pg 34

