

# THE ANATOMY OF A THRIVING CHURCH:

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Moving from Survival Mode to FLOURISHING

Week 3: HOSPITALITY -Part 2

# LAST WEEK IN REVIEW



# The Problem of the “Unkind Church”

- Only 21% of American non-Christians have a positive perception of the local church.
- What makes you doubt Christianity – Barna Group:
  - i. Negative past experiences with Church – 83%
  - ii. Hypocrisy of Christians – 80%
  - iii. Negative reputation of the Church – 68%

# **The Problem of the “Unkind Church”**

- 48% of millennials (22-36) and 40% of Gen Xers (37-55) view local church as judgemental.

**GOD'S DESIRE IS FOR THE  
CHURCH – THE BODY OF CHRIST –  
TO BE A STRIVING REFLECTION  
OF GOD'S CHARACTER, LOVE,  
AND VISION FOR THE WORLD.**

## Matthew 5:13-16 (The Message Bible)

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<sup>13</sup> “Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

<sup>14-16</sup> “Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world.

## **Matthew 5:13-16 (The Message Bible)**

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God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill.

If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives.

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## **Matthew 5:13-16 (The Message Bible)**

By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.



— HOSPITALITY IS ONE  
WAY WE – THE  
CHURCH – REFLECT  
GOD'S CHARACTER,  
LOVE, AND VISION  
FOR THE WORLD.



**ROMANS 15:7**

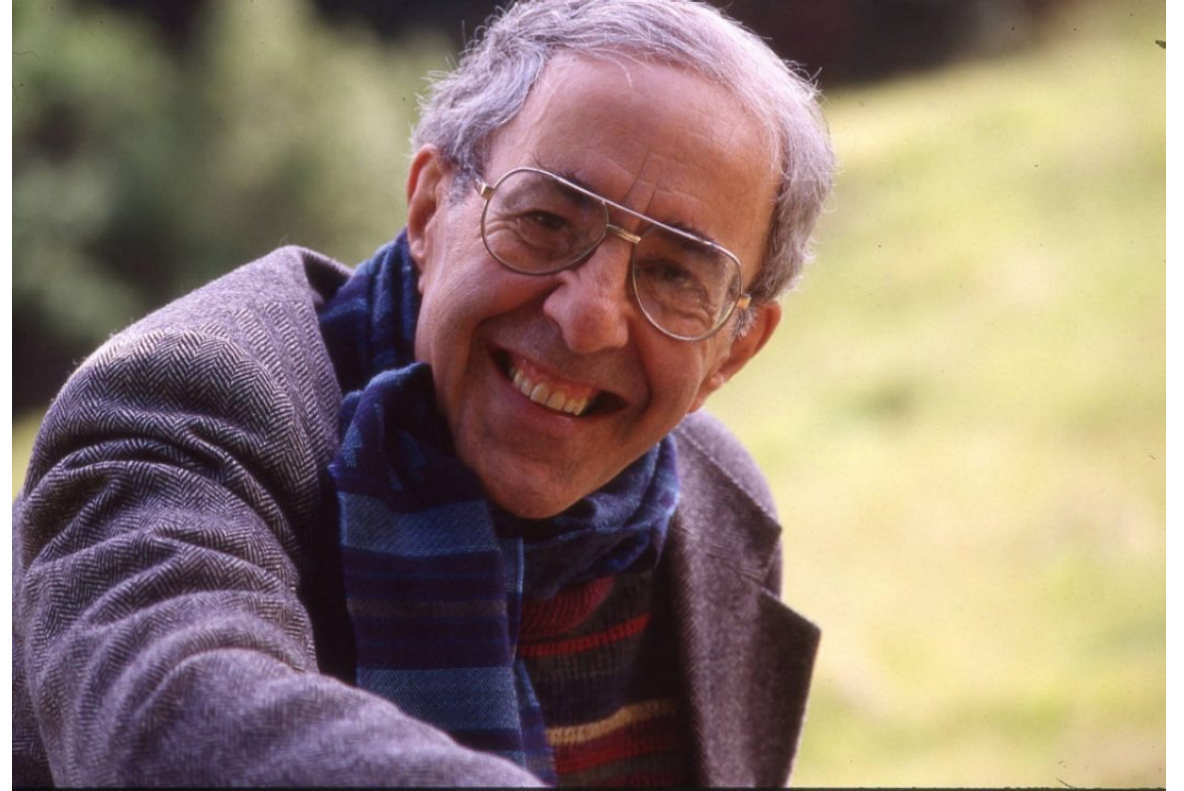
Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

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**“WHAT IS THIS  
HOSPITALITY  
THING?”**

## Henri Nouwen

- “Hospitality means...the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend...Hospitality is not to change people but to offer them space where change can take place.”



# **Hospitality as Holiness**

- The story at the center of the Old Testament is one of God's unfolding of hospitality to the people of Israel. Followed by God's injunction that God's people be neighborly to others.
- Part of holiness is wholeness within the community.

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# THE “HOLINESS CODES”

- Leviticus chapters 17-26
- Holiness seen as the character of God, Originates in God's nature.
- Holiness is less about perfection, more about fullness and satisfaction.
- Holiness is more about what we have been freed to do, than what we can't do.

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# THE “HOLINESS CODES”

- Collection of secular, ritualistic, moral, communal, and festival revelations.
- Guidelines for how we can act into our Godlikeness and pursue wholeness and fullness.
- One of the areas emphasized in the holiness codes is hospitality – How God’s people are to welcome/relate to others, esp. newcomers.

# Homework

1. Read "Holiness Codes" - Leviticus 19.
2. Ask yourself: Why does this matter for community?  
What did you learn about hospitality? How is hospitality described? What is the relationship between holiness and hospitality? Where do you see Lincoln Heights Church/yourself in this?
3. Come prepared to share.



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# **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**



# THE HOLY WORK OF HOSPITALITY



## **Leviticus 19:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. <sup>10</sup> You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.”

## **Leviticus 19:33-34**

<sup>33</sup> “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. <sup>34</sup> The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”

# ***1. Hospitality is Intentional - 19:9-10***

## **Observation**

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. <sup>10</sup> You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God

# ***1. Hospitality is Intentional - 19:9-10***

## **Interpretation**

- We cannot **assume** that our kindness is a given. We must **act** our kindness into being.
- Hospitality doesn't just happen. **Hospitality requires effort and planning.**

# ***1. Hospitality is Intentional - 19:9-10***

## **Application**

- What ways will we intentionally make our church a place where God's welcome can be felt and experienced?
- How are we intentionally addressing barriers that we know prevent people from becoming a part of our community? How do we respond when we fail?

## ***2. Hospitality Meets the Need of the Other- 19:9-10***

### **Observation**

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. <sup>10</sup> You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall **leave them for the poor and the alien**: I am the LORD your God



## ***2. Hospitality Meets the Need of the Other- 19:9-10***

### **Interpretation**

- We must be aware of the specific needs of the other in order to extend hospitality.
- Hospitality is not just to make us feel good. It is to make our environment a good space for growth.

## ***2. Hospitality Meets the Need of the Other- 19:9-10***

### **Application**

- What needs are we aware of in our community that our hospitality as a church could meet?

# **3. Hospitality Is Not “Difference Blind” - 19:9-10**

## **Observation**

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. <sup>10</sup> You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall **leave them for the poor and the alien**: I am the LORD your God.

- “Stranger,” “poor” “alien” – political category

# ***3. Hospitality Meets the Need of the Other- 19:9-10***

## **Interpretation**

- Hospitality is not simply about treating “everybody the same” or ignoring differences.
- Hospitality manages differences with **care.**

# ***3. Hospitality Meets the Need of the Other- 19:9-10***

## **Application**

- What does it mean for LHMBC to “manage differences with care?” What would it look like?

## ***4. Hospitality Resists the Insider- Outsider Divide - 19:33-34***

### **Observation**

<sup>33</sup> “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. <sup>34</sup> The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”

# ***4. Hospitality Resists the Insider- Outsider Divide - 19:33-34***

## **Interpretation**

“In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.”

“In Christ shall true hearts ev’rywhere  
their high communion find.  
His service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.”

# ***4. Hospitality Resists the Insider- Outsider Divide - 19:33-34***

## **Application**

- We are hospitable when we treat newcomers as integral parts of our community.
- This means treating people as if they are valuable and bring value with them.



# ***5. Hospitality Is A Response to God***

## ***- 19:33-34***

### **Observation**

<sup>33</sup> “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. <sup>34</sup> The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; **you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”**

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# **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

