

The Story of Hospitality
Culture Making | Things We Value
Luke 10:25-37

Welcoming others into a place in which we are somehow connected - a space that has meaning and value to us. Hospitality creates a safe, open space where a friend or stranger can enter and experience the welcoming spirit of Christ in another.

-Adele Calhoun
Spiritual Disciplines

“If there is any concept worth restoring to its original depth and evocative potential, it is the concept of hospitality.”

-Henri Nouwen

Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life

Romans 12:13

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek (strive) to show hospitality.

1 Peter 4:9

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

Matthew 10:40

Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.

Hebrews 13:2

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware.

1. Hospitality isn't easy

Luke 10:30

30 Jesus took up the question and said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and fled, leaving him half dead.

As a society, we are highly mobile and enjoy our personal independence, but hospitality is connected with a sense of place and interdependence.

"There is a loss in value whenever the risks involved in human virtue are closed off. There is a beauty in the willingness to love in the face of love's instability that is absent from a completely trustworthy love. There is a certain valuable quality in social virtue that is lost when social virtue is removed from the domain of uncontrolled happenings."

-Martha Nussbaum
Fragility of Goodness

2. Hospitality is about people

Luke 10:31-33

31 A priest happened to be going down that road. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 In the same way, a Levite, when he arrived at the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw the man, he had compassion.

Hospitality reminds us that respect does not have to be drained out of relationship in which one person has substantial needs. Respect and care can be united in a response that truly values the other person.

3. Hospitality is a way of life

Luke 10:33

33 But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw the man, he had compassion.

The overlap of household and church combines the most personal level of interaction with the most significant institutional base for transcending social difference and creating community.

-Victor Turner
The Ritual Process

Hospitality becomes for the Christian community a way of being the sacrament of God's love in the world.

-David Kirk
Hospitality: Essence of Eastern Christian Lifestyle

Luke 10:34-35

34 He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him. When I come back I'll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.'

36 "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" 37 "The one who showed mercy to him," he said. Then Jesus told him, "Go and do the same."

The pinnacle of lovelessness is not our unwillingness to be a neighbor to someone, but our unwillingness to allow them to be a neighbor to us.

-Anthony J Gittins
Beyond Hospitality

1 John 4:19

We love because he first loved us.