

Living as a Redeemed Ambassador - B.L.E.S.S.

- Because of our identity we are to show hospitality 1 Pet 4:9
- Hospitality is part of our human experience

Consider the Biblical Commands:

- Lev 19:33-34 God commands hospitality because of His Grace
- Job 31:32 Job listed hospitality as a virtue - evidence of following God
- Rm 12:13 - instructions on how to behave as a believer
- 1 Pet 4:9 - live hospitably for God's glory
- 1 Tim 5:10 - godly widows were to show hospitality
- Mt 25:35-40 - evidences for those who are God's
- Heb 13:2 - An appeal for Godly people to show hospitality

Nature of God's New Covenant:

- Nature of New Covenant - increases need for hospitality
- Peter wouldn't touch 'unclean', now all God's Act 10:15
- Applied to relationships: Act 10:28-29 Mission to the world for the glory of God means taking God's Good News to all!
 - We aren't God's people because we are special; we are God's people because of His great mercy & grace!
 - We don't minister to others because they are deserving; but because they are made in God's image and we are called to love them

Why Don't We Exercise Hospitality?

- Simply too Scary
 - Fear of man Prv 29:25; 9:10. God's opinion is what matters!
 - Clean to honor God, not man. Make others comfortable.
- Simply too Costly
 - Food costs money. Hospitality takes time & effort.
 - Who do you live for? Can you trust God to provide?
 - Keep things simple (not to impress) for relationship building
- Simply too Busy
 - Our culture teaches us to be too busy. Evaluate your schedule with Jesus. We all eat 21 meals – what meals can you share?
 - Start w/ 1 shared meal and then build.

Applying the 4 G's to help:

- You may be too busy because you are insecure and you need to control life. But God is great and cares for you as a sovereign loving father.
- You may be too busy because you fear what other people think and you can't say no. But remember God is Glorious and His opinion is all that matters!
- You may be too busy because you've filled your life with activities in a desperate attempt to find satisfaction. But God is Good and our only true source of joy!
- You may be too busy because you're trying to prove yourself through your work or ministry. But don't forget that God is Gracious and has already justified you freely because of Christ's work, not yours.

BLESS RHYTHMS: living w/ Christ's attitude: *1 Pt 4:1*

Bless: We intentionally bless others through serving, encouraging, giving, and thinking of those around us. Instead of focusing on ourselves, we focus on others.

Listen: We intentionally listen to others through questions, focus, and attentiveness to their story and who they are.

Eat: We intentionally eat through sharing our meals, drinks, and moments around the critical necessity of nourishment.

Speak: We intentionally speak the truths of Jesus by graciously and boldly proclaiming the gospel in all scenarios of life.

Sabbath/Celebrate/Recreate: We intentionally work, rest, and enjoy the fruit of the gospel and fruit of God's creation. We pause to remember we are God's mission as we're on God's mission. The mission is His, not ours.

Daily: do an inventory and look for opportunities to BLESS others... Live intentionally for Christ's glory!

Put it into Practice:

- PRAY! You eat at least 21 meals a week... who can you invite to eat (celebrate) with you? Pick 2 or 3: a neighbor, co-worker, regular person in your sphere of influence.
- Examine your meal schedule. How can you re-arrange your life such that hospitality is part of your life? Do you have too many church activities? Sports activities? Job commitments? Self commitments? If Jesus were to sit with you what might He say?
- Pray with your family. Decide now to invite someone over to share a meal. Get to know them in terms of asking about their story? People love to share. Pray for God's Spirit to guide you.