

“Why was hospitality so important in the Old Testament?”

1. Hospitality was modeled by Abraham (Gen 18:1-10)

- a. Hospitality was offered to solicit friendship

2. Hospitality was command in the Mosaic law (Ex23:9)

- a. Redeemed status required offering hospitality to others.
(Deut. 24:17-18)

3. Hospitality was upheld by the prophets (Is 58)

4. Jesus counted on hospitality (Matt 8:20)

5. Hospitality practiced and taught by the early church

- a. Utilized by Disciples (Philemon 22)
- b. Hospitality was a qualification for Eldership
(1 Tim 3:2, and Tit 1:8)
- c. Linked with faith (Matt 25:42-45)
- d. Expected of the whole church
(Heb 13:1,2; Rom 12:9-13; 1 Peter 4:9-11)

Hospitality is and has been throughout history a mark of a believer!

Books for further study:

“Making Room For Life” Randy Frazee

“L’Abri” Edith Schaeffer

“Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition”
Christine D. Pohl

Cell Group Questions...

1. How do Christian’s current practices of hospitality compare with the whole of scripture?
2. Share of a time when you experienced meaningful hospitality. What made it significant to you?
3. What challenges confront you when you try to practice hospitality?
4. Of the many passages presented, which stood out to you personally? Why?
5. How might practicing hospitality relate to Eric’s challenge to be a “friend of “sinners””?