

Hospitality; Leviticus 19:33-34

I. Others

- A. How do we view people around us
- B. I firmly believe this view determines our interactions with those around us
- C. And our interactions with people determine whether we are hospitable or not
- D. Defined
 - 1. Given to a generous and cordial reception
 - 2. Offer a pleasant or sustaining environment

II. Business

- A. Leviticus 19:35–37; 35 “You shall do no wrong in judgment, in measures of length or weight or quantity. 36 You shall have just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. 37 And you shall observe all my statutes and all my rules, and do them: I am the Lord.”
- B. Weights, measures, and scales were an important part of conducting business in the Old Testament
- C. Deuteronomy 25:13–16; 13 “You shall not have in your bag two kinds of weights, a large and a small. 14 You shall not have in your house two kinds of measures, a large and a small. 15 A full and fair weight you shall have, a full and fair measure you shall have, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. 16 For all who do such things, all who act dishonestly, are an abomination to the Lord your God.
- D. This all equates to honest business practices (on both the seller and the buyer)
 - 1. Discount stores often have discount quality (for example, jeans. The old saying “you get what you pay for”)
 - a) Most discount stores do not advertise that their products are not of the same quality as a regular store
 - b) Some discount stores even require the manufacturers to lower the quality so they can lower the price
 - 2. “Used car salesman”
 - 3. The New York hot dog cart, selling hot dogs to tourists for \$30.00
 - 4. The gelato shop in Italy, selling gelato to tourists for \$18.00 (I thought \$5.00 at Cold Stone was expensive)
- E. We may not all own businesses, but we all have business dealings
- F. What do we think is important?
 - 1. That we make a better deal than someone else?
 - 2. Or that we are honest, fair, and care about others?
 - 3. Many businesses think the bottom line is the profit/loss column
 - 4. The bottom line is always people
- G. Hosea 12:7; A merchant, in whose hands are false balances, he loves to oppress.
- H. “Holiness does not allow for dishonesty in the marketplace.” Kaiser

III. Personal

- A. Leviticus 19:33–34; 33 “When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. 34 You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.
- B. How do we view people?
 - 1. By their behavior?
 - 2. By their personality?
 - 3. By their actions?

4. I would say that all of these are wrong
 5. Do we want God using that same criteria as he looks at us?
 6. Revelation 21:8; But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”
 7. 1 Timothy 2:1–4; 1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- C. God created all people
1. Their soul should belong to their creator
 2. We should look at them as a soul that longs to be reunited with its creator
 3. People’s choices either draw them closer or push them further away
 4. We ought to be in the business of helping them draw closer, not pushing them further away
- D. We should offer them “a generous and cordial reception” and “a pleasant or sustaining environment”
- E. 1 Peter 4:7–11; 7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- F. “treat him as a native,” “love him as yourself”
- G. We can love people and still speak out against sin
1. Chick-fil-A
 2. Hobby Lobby
- H. Some will not like it
1. 1 Peter 4:3–5; 3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. 4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; 5 but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.
 2. 1 Peter 3:15–16; 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.
- I. But, like it or not, being loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self controlled are the mark of Christian behavior (and the fruit of the Spirit).
- J. All these things add up to being hospitable
- K. Romans 12:13; Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.
1. “Seek” - to move rapidly and decisively toward an object (or idea)
 2. We are to seek out opportunities to show hospitality
 3. That means inviting people over to visit, share time, fellowship, and evangelize

- L. Hebrews 13:2; Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.
 - 1. This is a very serious verse for me
 - 2. This verse makes me evaluate every interaction I have with people, especially those who are in need
 - 3. Am I being hospitable?
 - 4. Am I meeting their needs (as far as I am able to)?
 - 5. Am I looking to their future needs?

M. Hospitality is evangelism!

- 1. People are more willing to listen to what you have to say after you have seen to their needs
- 2. That was how Jesus worked
 - a) He healed them and taught them
 - b) He fed them and taught them
 - c) He met their needs both physical and spiritual

N. How hospitable are we?

IV. Be Hospitable

- A. In business and personal relationships
- B. Be prepared to be maligned and persecuted
- C. Hospitality is an avenue to evangelism, use it