

Hospitality

Simply Said

Hospitality is allowing the truth of the gospel to reshape the way that we engage with our neighbors.

The Greatest Commandment

“Which commandment is the most important of all?” Jesus says something that brings surprise, simplicity and clarity to the question: “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” What an interesting answer. The most important commandment are these two commandments. Love God. Love others. One of the main ways we love God is by loving others.

Love Your Neighbors

To love your neighbor, you must know your neighbor. The Gospel is spread by the abnormal love displayed through believers and followers of Jesus. The love we display to our literal neighbors, to our coworkers, to our ‘enemies’, and others is a display of the love that Jesus has showed us. “God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” – Romans 5:8. No matter how “far” someone is from God, no matter their beliefs, no matter their political alignment, no matter their list of sins, we open ourselves to know them, serve them and love them for their good.

One of the main ways we love our neighbors is through our homes:

Our Earthly Home | Our homes are not just places of retreat but opportunities for invitation. God has planted us in neighborhoods, in jobs, and in other environments to be a beacon of light and a picture of hope. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden” – Matthew 5:14.

Our Church Home | Our local church is not just a place for believers to gather, but also to be a witness to the watching world of the grace, mercy, glory, and truth of God. We use the environments to be a bridge for people to experience the gathering of the family of God and “the pillar and foundation of the truth” – 1 Timothy 3:15.

Our Eternal Home | Many of our neighbors are currently not joining us in our eternal home. They are invited, but many of them have not heard that good news. This is the culmination of our hospitality: that through our listening ears, our homes, our presence, our care, and our words people would come to believe the truth of their need for a Savior and that true life really does come on the other side of knowing Jesus.

Hospitality is Inconvenient

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” Matthew 16:24. Loving our neighbors will take us intentionally dying to ourself, our desires, our personalities, our budgets, etc. for the good of other people. Hospitality is not convenient for us but it is loving for others.

What is Our Role in the Practice of Hospitality?

Our role is to serve God by serving our neighbors in practical and relational ways. Find specific ways to do thus through our Hospitality Resources at <https://nm.redemptionaz.com/hospitality>.