

Sermon Outline
The Rev. Dr. S. Edd Cathey
Hospitality: A Christian Virtue
October 11, 2015

Sermon Text: 3 John 1-15

1. Truth is the Ground of Hospitality (1-4)

2. Hospitality Naturally Involves Assistance (5-8)

* See “The Didache” (Teaching of the Twelve Apostles) – next page

3. The Obstacle to Hospitality: Pride (9-10)

4. An Example of True Christian Hospitality (11-15)

Hospitality today-

- Involvement in the lives of “Adelphoi” brothers and sisters
- Humble loving/discerning fellowship with Christians here and wherever you may meet them.
- Assisting workers in the gospel- Tithes, offerings, mission short term service, encouragement by visiting fields, PRAYER.
- Service right here in our mission! Nursery, fellowship events, tables/chairs, mowing, fixing, painting, cleaning, choir camp, etc.

Conclusion:

Christian hospitality was a subversive act that tore down barriers involving gender, race, economic condition, and citizenship status, and also directly attacked the common sinful pattern of devaluing the personhood of 'undesirables'.

The extension of hospitality was a moral statement with moral overtones that offered a dramatic and often effective witness to the world and was crucial to the growth of the early church.

* The Didache (Teaching of the Twelve Apostles)

Chapter 11. Concerning Teachers, Apostles, and Prophets. Whosoever, therefore, comes and teaches you all these things that have been said before, receive him. But if the teacher himself turns and teaches another doctrine to the destruction of this, hear him not. But if he teaches so as to increase righteousness and the knowledge of the Lord, receive him as the Lord. But concerning the apostles and prophets, act according to the decree of the Gospel. Let every apostle who comes to you be received as the Lord. But he shall not remain more than one day; or two days, if there's a need. But if he remains three days, he is a false prophet. And when the apostle goes away, let him take nothing but bread until he lodges. If he asks for money, he is a false prophet..... And every prophet who teaches the truth, but does not do what he teaches, is a false prophet. And every prophet, proved true, working unto the mystery of the Church in the world, yet not teaching others to do what he himself does, shall not be judged among you, for with God he has his judgment; for so did also the ancient prophets. But whoever says in the Spirit, Give me money, or something else, you shall not listen to him. But if he tells you to give for others' sake who are in need, let no one judge him.

Chapter 12. Reception of Christians. But receive everyone who comes in the name of the Lord, and prove and know him afterward; for you shall have understanding right and left. If he who comes is a wayfarer, assist him as far as you are able; but he shall not remain with you more than two or three days, if need be. But if he wants to stay with you, and is an artisan, let him work and eat. But if he has no trade, according to your understanding, see to it that, as a Christian, he shall not live with you idle. But if he wills not to do, he is a Christ-monger. Watch that you keep away from such.

Chapter 13. Support of Prophets. But every true prophet who wants to live among you is worthy of his support. So also a true teacher is himself worthy, as the workman, of his support. Every first-fruit, therefore, of the products of wine-press and threshing-floor, of oxen and of sheep, you shall take and give to the prophets, for they are your high priests. But if you have no prophet, give it to the poor. If you make a batch of dough, take the first-fruit and give according to the commandment. So also when you open a jar of wine or of oil, take the first-fruit and give it to the prophets; and of money (silver) and clothing and every possession, take the first-fruit, as it may seem good to you, and give according to the commandment.