

The Bottomless Cup of Christian Hospitality
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Road Map

- I Introduction: Strangers
- II Ancient World
 - i) Israel
 - ii) Pagans
 - iii) Early Christian Writers
- III Biblical World
 - i) Old Testament
 - ii) New Testament
- IV Respect and Dignity
- V Hospitality and Eucharist
- VI Conclusion: Challenges

Genesis 15:13 (Genesis:15:5-21)

Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be aliens in a land that is not theirs, and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years.

Leviticus 25:23

–for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants.

Exodus 23:9

You shall not oppress a stranger; you know the heart of a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Israel.

Lactantius

It is easy to do good to family, neighbours, and friends. But in what does the nature of justice consist than in our affording to strangers through kindness, that which we render to our own relative through affection.

St. Jerome

Let the poor and strangers be acquainted with your modest table and with them Christ shall be your guest.

St. John Chrysostom

You receive Me into your lodging, I will receive you into the kingdom of My Father; you took away My hunger, I take away your sins; . . . you saw Me a stranger, I make you a citizen of heaven, you gave Me bread, I give you an entire Kingdom, that you may inherit and possess it.

1 Kings 17

Elijah and the Widow of Zaraphath

2 Kings 4:8-37

Elisha and the Shunammite Woman

Genesis 18:1-22

The Hospitality of Abraham and Sarah

Genesis 19

The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

The Shape of Hospitality

1. Meet in a public space
2. Invite into household/community
3. Refresh and protect
4. Gradual revelation of God's presence
5. Concrete blessing (blessing in disguise)

Hebrew 13:2

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Luke 14:12-14

When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

Matthew 25:30-46

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick

and in prison and you did not visit me. . . and these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

St. John Chrysostom

By how much the brother [or sister] may be least, so much the more does Christ come to you through him [or her].

St. John Chrysostom

The stranger requires much attendance, much encouragement, and with all this it is difficult for him not to feel abashed; for so delicate is his position that while he receives the favour, he is ashamed. That shame we ought to remove by the most attentive service, and to show by words and actions, that we do not think we are conferring a favour, but receiving one, that we are obliging less than we are obliged.

Allan Boesak

The pinnacle of lovelessness is not our unwillingness to be a neighbour to someone, but our unwillingness to allow them to be a neighbour to us.

Elizabeth Newman

[In the liturgy] we receive more fully the truth of whose we are as we offer in return our prayers and thanksgiving, indeed our very lives, to God. Such hospitality is not an individual or even a communal achievement. It is rather a gift to be received, and its faithful reception makes us part of something larger than ourselves: Christ's own body, a body marked by God's triune giving and receiving.

Luke 24:30-31

When he was at table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.