

# HOSPITALITY



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

# Who Are We?

- Emmanuel Presbyterian Church is a community of people called by Christ and shaped by grace to worship God and make his love known in Cedar Park and the world.

# Who Are We?

- A Holy People - 1 Pet. 2:9-10
- Making Disciples - Matt. 28:18-20
- Loving God & Our Neighbor - Luke 10:27
- Loving One Another - John 13:34
- Loving Our Community - Jer. 9:27

# Values: Worship

- As followers of Christ, we are called to worship the one true God. We do this regularly to the glory of God for the benefit of our souls. At Emmanuel, our worship is:
- Historically grounded: Our worship is historically grounded in the traditions of the Church, so that we may unite our voices with Christians from all times and places.
- Present Celebration: Our worship is also a present celebration that unites us to our risen Lord, in word and sacrament. We celebrate because of the hope and joy we have in Christ.

# Values: Authentic Community

- Genuine Relationships: Authentic community is a group of sinful people called by Christ and shaped by God's word into an open family. We seek to be a safe place for genuine relationships to be formed and nurtured.
- Hospitality: Because we follow Christ, we are here to welcome all that come. We are broken people that need a savior, glad to show others the grace we have received from Christ.
- Growth: Even as broken people in a broken world, we do not wish to remain that way. We seek to grow in the grace of Christ through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit and the ministry of the Word.

# Values: Mission

- ◉ Love: As followers of Christ we are called to love our neighbors in both word and deed. We intend that all of our relationships should be avenues for generous grace, because we ourselves have received these things from Christ.
- ◉ Service: We seek to show our love through acts of service in the communities and neighborhoods around us.
- ◉ Place: We are not just a church in Cedar Park, but we are a church for Cedar Park and the entire Northwest side of Austin. We intend to seek the welfare of the communities in which we live and are situated.

The Goal: Make Disciples

"Go therefore and make disciples  
of all nations, baptizing them in  
the name of the Father and of the  
Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
teaching them to observe all that I  
have commanded you. And behold,  
I am with you always, to the end  
of the age." -Matthew 28:19-20

What Do Disciples Do?

Matt. 6:10 - Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Matt. 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Rev. 11:15 - Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."

What Does That Mean?

"The primary math of the real world is one and one equals two. The layman (as, often, do I) swings that every day. He goes to the job, does his work, pays his bills and comes home. One plus one equals two. It keeps the world spinning. But artists, musicians, con men, poets, mystics and such are paid to turn that math on its head, to rub two sticks together and bring forth fire. Everybody performs this alchemy somewhere in their life, but it's hard to hold on to and easy to forget..."

...People don't come to rock shows to learn something. They come to be reminded of something they already know and feel deep down in their gut. That's when the world is at its best, when we are at our best, when life feels fullest, one and one equals three. It's the essential equation of love, art, rock 'n' roll and rock 'n' roll bands. It's the reason the universe will never be fully comprehensible, love will continue to be ecstatic, confounding, and true rock 'n' roll will never die."

— Bruce Springsteen, Born to Run

Holy things are ordinary things perceived in their true light, that is, as bearers of the divine mysteries and glory to us. Looked at in this way, eating becomes eucharistic, and working becomes the opus dei (work of God), and loving becomes an image of the City of God... We are set free to live in the splendor where eating and drinking and working and playing are known for what they are: forms of perpetual worship and therefore bliss.

- Thomas Howard, Splendor in the Ordinary

What Made Babette's Feast  
Have Spiritual Impact?

- It wasn't an abuse: NOT Gluttony, NOT Drunkenness, NOT Unjust
- It was a true act of Service & Hospitality
- It was connected to Spiritual Realities - Particularly Grace
- It was (as all great art is) a picture of Heaven

How Do We (EPC) Do THAT?

Hospitality

# What Is Hospitality?

- Rom. 12:13 - Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.
- Heb. 13:2 - Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.
- 1Pet. 4:9 - Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

# What Is Hospitality?

- φιλοξενία - Philo + Xenia
- Phileo - to love (brotherly love)
- Xenophobia - fear of strangers
- Hospitality = love of Strangers

# Jesus & Hospitality

- ◉ He mostly receives it. (Zacheus, Mary & Martha)
- ◉ He teaches it ... a lot.
- ◉ The Good Samaritan, Parable of the Wedding Banquet, etc.
- ◉ He Practices it, but differently. He welcomes everyone.

# Paul & Early Church

- The Early Church was built upon it.
- Again, often received it. (Acts Missionary Journeys)
- Practiced it in home churches.
- Taught it. See Rom. 15. Qualifications for Elders, etc. 1Tim.; Titus.

"Hospitality is the practice of God's welcome by reaching across difference to participate in God's actions bringing justice and healing to our world in crisis."

— Letty M. Russell

Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines.

— Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*

"God's Creation gives us a model for making and sharing homes with people, but the reality of God's Trinitarian life suggests that Christian hospitality goes farther than that. We are not meant simply to invite people into our homes, but also to invite them into our lives. Having guests and visitors, if we do it right, is not an imposition, because we are not meant to rearrange our lives for our guests - we are meant to invite our guests to enter into our lives as they are. It is this forging of relationships that transforms entertainment... into hospitality... As writer Karen Burton Mains puts it, "Visitors may be more than guests in our home. If they like, they may be friends."

— Lauren F. Winner, *Mudhouse Sabbath*

"When I am a good host, I can order the world precisely as I believe it ought to be. It is a world that I have created in my mind and in my own image, and it gladdens me profoundly to see it unfold without original sin, without expulsions and floods and disobedience and illness. When I am a good guest, I have returned to Eden, where everything I need is provided for me, including companionship and a benevolent deity at my shoulder serving me and protecting me. The concept of paradise may be backward-looking but the concept of heaven is anticipatory...."

... Perhaps this is what heaven will be like? A great table of oak worn smooth with age and candle wax; a dimly lit room, a quartet of angels playing Sarah Vaughan in the corner; this blissful throb of quiet, intelligent conversation; bubbling pots and aromatic stews that no one seems to have worked to prepare; and you - you have nothing to worry about, not now, not here, not for all eternity. Leave it all behind at the threshold, forget everything, for here in heaven, you are my guest."

— Jesse Browner

# Concerns about Hospitality

- Not enough preaching/evangelism

- "Social Gospel"

- Not "Spiritual" enough ... Not Bible Study

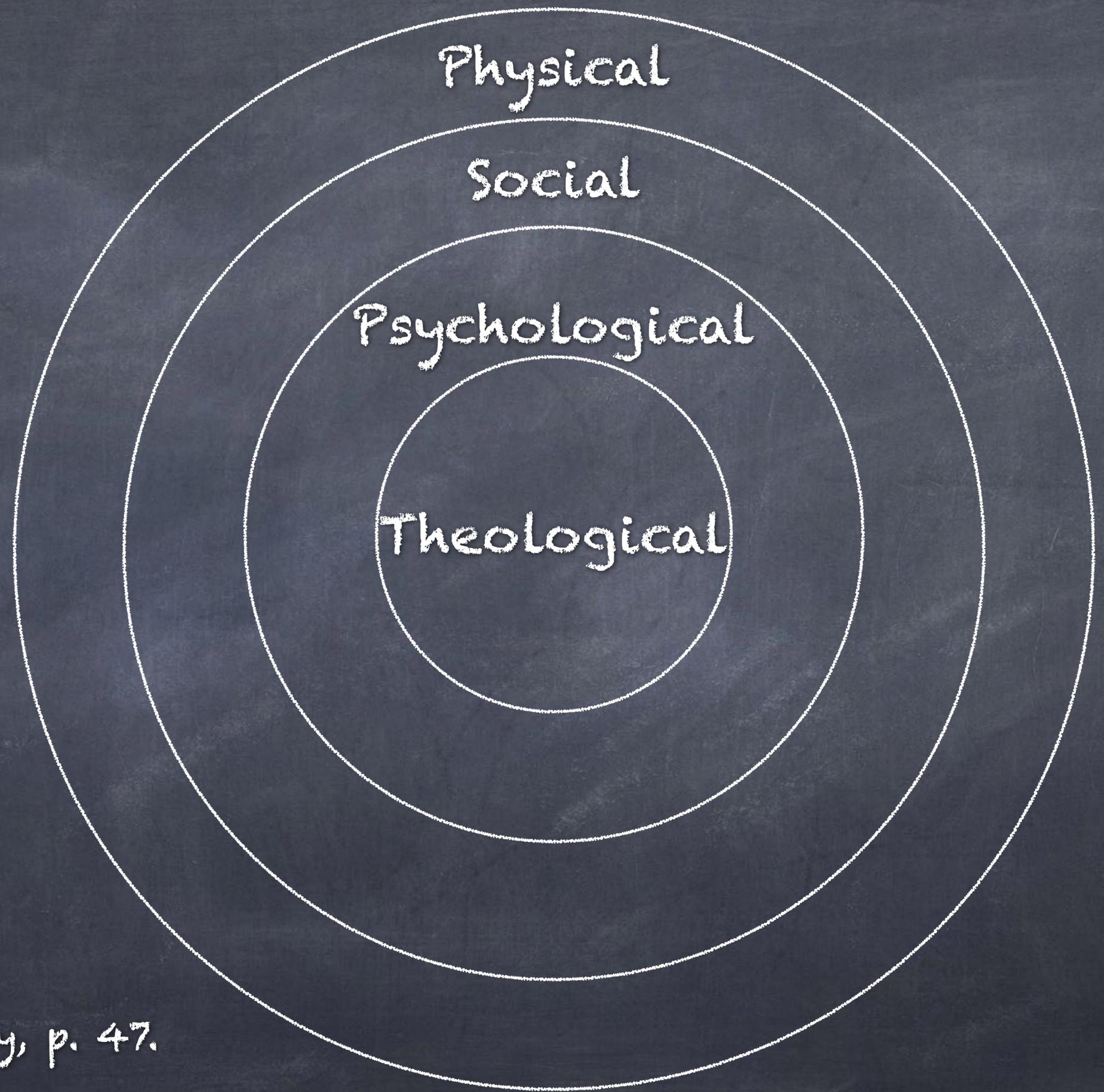
- Vulnerable to Abuse

- Expensive

# What Is Hospitality?

- How is Hospitality about justice?
- How is Hospitality about the Gospel?
- How does Hospitality make the Kingdom present?

Alienation  
Resulting  
from  
Adam & Eve's  
Fall



- Tim Keller, Ministries of Mercy, p. 47.

Practicing Hospitality

# Practicing Hospitality

- ◉ Where Can We Practice Hospitality?
- ◉ How Can We Practice Hospitality?
- ◉ Is Hospitality About the Things we do, or the way we do them?

# Practicing Hospitality

- Greeting/Welcoming EVERYONE.
- Genuine Interest, NEVER Judgment
- Be intentionally open in many (all?) situations
- Always think of the visitor

# Practicing Hospitality

- Implement rules & policies that make people feel safe & welcome.
- Be willing to give up some freedoms?
- Intentionally exercise others?
- Particularly think of sharing food/meals.
- Do things that break down social/psychological barriers

# Opportunities for Hospitality

- Outreach Events (Crawfish Boil & Chili Cookoff)

- Worship

- SoD?

- Community Groups

- Service - School?