

Church Challenge 2011

Challenge – Hospitality

* Comes From The Heart of God *

- Lev. 19 – treatment of outsiders for God's children

* Commanded For The Children of God *

- Rom. 12, 1Peter 4, Heb. 13 – be hospitable

* Suggestions for Loving Others this way: *

- Intentional, Encouraging, Thankful, Authentic

* Challenge – practice hospitality this Year *

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Provide Help For Your Assignment

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders, make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” Colossians 4:2-6

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1. Prepare With Prayer – vs.2-4

- there is preparation required to make an impact!
- seldom do armies win on passion – need training

a) Consistency is the Key

- devote, continue, be steadfast in – faithful to
- not only in crisis, not only in emotion, regularly....
- make this a habit or pattern in your daily life

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b) Look Alive!

- watchful, wide awake, aware of and seeing
- Nehemiah, Jesus, Paul – pattern of being watchful
- aware of enemy, opportunity, strategy etc.

c) See The Victories

- be thankful, written by Paul in chains, - give thanks
- see God's grace, look at Jesus, see eternal perspective
- attitude and approach completely different

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d) Ask Specifically From God:

- for those who are on the front lines, choosing to be involved and active
 - for an opportunity to share about the truth. Some door through which the truth can be shared!
 - for clarity of communication – that this message not remain a mystery, but be clear and compelling to them!
- * That I would be willing, discerning and clear with those you bring into my life! *

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2. Act On Principle

- after preparation comes action – time to get going
- this is where the fun begins – doing what you were prepared (made) for!

a) Show Wisdom In Your Life

- wisdom – knowing what to do w/o the rule book!
- be wise:
 - experience, knowledge & Holy Spirit enabled
 - towards outsiders – don't offend

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b) Seize the Moment

- make the most of every opportunity
- be ready, available to God, prepared with scripture
- suggests that 'bad day' isn't a possibility for us!

c) Watch What You Say

- grace filled speech is easily recognized today
- without condemnation, judgment, critical opinions
- giving worth and value to others

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- seasoned with salt – preserving, flavorful
- words used with purpose – preserve, tasty

d) Pay Attention To People

- answer each one – assumes you heard their query
- when you listen first:
 - hear hearts, real questions, fears, struggles
- know where they need truth from God's word, touch from God's hand in their lives.
- people matter to God – need to matter to us!

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So What

be hospitable – willing to reflect God to others

Where Do I Start?

1. Prepare With Prayer

- consistent, watchful, thankful with specific requests

2. Act On Principle

- wise in life, willing to walk, careful in speech, and attentive to others