

# Challenge 2011

## Great Season for Reflection

- times shared with family & friends
- review past year – look ahead
- set goals, resolutions, changes we desire to make

## Challenge for the Church in 2011

- believe it will become a critical part of life and ministry

- reflects God's heart for us
- key to living as a disciple of Jesus

# Challenge 2011

## 1. Scripture and Hospitality

***“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” Rom. 12:10-13***

- literally – pursue hospitality
- implication of the verb – continuous action
- connecting attitudes and actions!

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## Reading Romans 12

- knowing God's mercy & grace towards you, how do you live?
- I appeal to you therefore brothers .....
- on the basis of everything learned in 1-11, give your body to God and live like this.
- what it looks like to reflect God's heart in your lives
- how to handle money, possession, homes – heart stuff
- clear that hospitality part of this

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***“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.” 1 Peter 4:8-9***

- be people who practice hospitality, and like it!

***“Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.” Heb.13***

- offered to strangers – not just my group of friends!

\* natural inclination – be selfish with time, home, serving me not others. Natural to neglect hospitality – easily ignored\*

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## 2. Motivation To Be Hospitable

- why is this important in our lives, our following of Jesus?
- Lev.19:33-34 ***“When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”***
- Lev. 19:1 – “you shall be holy as I am holy” – mirror me in your lives and actions
- God loved and rescued them, and they are to reflect that to others.

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- “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Jesus Christ died for us.” Rom. 5:6-8

- God rescued us – we were undeserving

- *“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command..... This is my command: Love each other. John 15:12,13,17*

# Challenge 2011

- Motivation for Hospitality Reflect God's Love
- Note some interesting things:
  - a) love essential to whole deal
  - b) we are to reflect Jesus to others
  - c) that which God extends to us – he expects us to extend to others! (forgiveness, grace, love, etc)
  - d) implication that our faith and following of Jesus cannot be kept under wraps. Must be shared and shown!

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## 3. Practicing Hospitality

- practical suggestions that help you follow through!

### a) Be Intentional

- keep on, do not forget, practice, - take action

- pray for opportunity, plan time, prepare home & heart

### b) Be Encouraging

- serving one another, without grumbling

- hear their story, keep the conversation honoring

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## c) Be Thankful

- show your love for God and others
- let your overflow of grace and love bless others

## d) Be Real

- joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer
- authentic community is attractive

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## So What

1. Challenge for You—great time to try something
  - remember – not optional, suggested, assignment for us
2. Hospitality Is Commanded – reflects God, important
  - scripture is clear – people of God are to be hospitable
3. Motivated By Love – our experience of God reflected
  - when we are hospitable – we evidence our hearts
4. Set A Goal and Plan For It – won't happen by default