



GENEROUS HOSPITALITY

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Pastor Alex Rivero, Guest Speaker

Alex was born in Caracas, Venezuela. He has been married to Nancy for 31 years. He has three young adult kids and one granddaughter. Alex is the All-People Director for the EFCA West (Evangelical Free Church of America) part of a team that oversees 220 congregations in the Western United States. Alex is also the Executive Pastor for The Bridge Evangelical Free Church in Newbury Park, CA. He holds a Masters in Divinity from Fresno Pacific University (School of Theology). Alex and Nancy live in Newbury Park, California.

MESSAGE NOTES

A Biblical View about Welcoming People in our Church

Recommended Book: *Unclean, Meditations on Purity, Hospitality, and Mortality* by Richard Beck

A View of Hospitality

- What is Hospitality?
- Is your Church a Hospitable Church?
- What is a good New Testament verse about hospitality?
- Why is it natural to extend grace to a suffering friend?
- Why do we fail to treat another human being with mercy and dignity?

Reacting to others that are “different” than you

- **Purity & Holiness – the religious in us.**
- **The moral circle. (Social circle)**
- **Radical Hospitality.**

A Biblical Standard: A Loving Fellowship

You have heard that it was said, “Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I tell you, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven ...” — Matthew 5:43 – 45

Four layers of being a hospitable / loving person:

1. To love is to speak well to others.

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. — Proverbs 15:1

2. To love is to speak well of others.

Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. — 1 Peter 3:9

3. To love is to pray for others.

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. — Matthew 5:44

4. To love is to do good to others.

But to you who are listening I say: “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. — Luke 6:27 – 28

We want to be people of hospitality. Hospitality begins in your heart, and it is expressed by love.