

Hospitality

The purpose of this paragraph is to define Hospitality. According to [current authorized Episcopal Church teaching](#), every time we see the name Sodom in the Bible (over 30 times) we should think [Hospitality](#)¹. The definition of Sodom and therefore Hospitality has now changed. For the first two thousand years of the Church, Sodom stood for Homosexuality. At first mention, the Bible says the people of Sodom were wicked. The [whole story of the destruction of Sodom](#) (five cities and an area the size of a small state (the soil of that area) permanently destroyed by burning brimstone (sulfur) from heaven) represented how the sin of homosexuality opposed God's command that we be fruitful and multiply. But, since we now know that there is [no hell](#) in the original scriptures, we know he wants as many births as possible, even people born into the most painful situations. God is love. His overall purpose is that all people ever born know his love. Since everything that happens works for good, God always gets his way. To know him is to worship him, and through our heart we know him (looking inside to know ourselves and each other). With no hell, in those three Biblical harvests (I now believe: one in this age, one in the next and one at the end of the next age) everyone (everyone ever born) will be saved from sin and death. Since no hell, sin is the worst pain for us; and sin is just a tool God is using to get us to worship him. Because he designed us to sin, the pain of sin is God's responsibility, not our fault. Like Job, in the end of this process he promises we will be rewarded for all the sin pain we endure. By then, we will know ourselves and worship him. So, in the end God wins. He said he would. He does not change. Nothing has changed with his purpose. The only thing that has changed is the definition of Hospitality. Because the soil was destroyed, we can still (4,000 years later) see the remains of Sodom. Plus, right after the time of Jesus, the famous [Jewish historian Josephus described his view of those five cities](#) as: "The traces [or shadows] of the five cities are still to be seen, as well as the ashes growing in their fruits; which fruits have a color as if they were fit to be eaten, but if you pluck them with your hands, they dissolve into smoke and ashes. And thus what is related of this land of Sodom hath these marks of credibility which our very sight affords us²". The sulfur burned so fast the color of the fruit was still visible after 2,000 years. I say: "It was special sulfur. Have we ever seen anything else like that in nature?" Think "Hospitality" every time you see the word Sodom in the Bible.

¹ The New Church's Teaching Series Volume 10 – Christian Social Witness, Chapter 7- Human Sexuality, Page 127, Harold T. Lewis, Cowley Publications, Cambridge – Boston, Massachusetts, 2001.

² Jewish War, Josephus, the fourth book, an excerpt from the end of the eighth chapter