

LOVERS OF HOSPITALITY

Romans 12:9-13

“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, **given to hospitality.**”

1 Timothy 3:2

“A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, **given to hospitality**, apt to teach;”

Titus 1:7-8

“For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; but **a lover of hospitality**, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;”

1 Peter 4:9

“Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.”

1 Timothy 5:10

“well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, **if she has lodged strangers**, if she has washed the saints’ feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.”

Matthew 25:34-40

“Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’”

Hebrews 13:1-2

“Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.”

Hospitality: Attitude, Action, and Audience

- Attitude
 - Given to; lover of
 - As a servant
 - Without grumbling, complaining
 - Of free will
 - Compassion
 - Not to be repaid

Hospitality: Attitude, Action, and Audience

- Action
 - Involves the idea of feeding, giving rest to, lodging, sheltering
 - A function of the individual

Hospitality: Attitude, Action, and Audience

- Audience
 - Not just strangers, but brethren also
 - Stranger, poor, guests, friends, neighbors, brethren

Hospitality is important

- Commanded of Christians
- A requirement to be an elder
- A qualification for a widow to be placed on the roll of the church for support
- A matter of how we will be judged on the last day

Why may it not be practiced as it should be?

- Not because we do not have enough house, enough food, enough stuff
- American median house size:
 - 1920: 1,048 sf
 - 1930: 1,129
 - 1940: 1,177
 - 1950: 983
 - 1960: 1,289
 - 1970: 1,500
 - 1980: 1,740
 - 1990: 2,080
 - 2000: 2,266
 - 2010: 2,392
 - 2014: 2,657

Why may it not be practiced as it should be?

- Can be because of
 - Prejudice
 - Lack of compassion
 - Unwilling to sacrifice time, money, energy to serve others
 - No interest in others
 - Wall of privacy
 - Not a priority
 - Unprepared
 - Unreasonable expectations

Hospitality has great benefits

- Contributes to closeness among brethren
- Gives an opportunity to influence the world
- Gives an opportunity to teach and to encourage
- Gives an opportunity to share God's bounty with others and those in need

What are some ways we can practice hospitality?

- Invite into your home a neighbor or someone previously unknown to you
- Take a meal to someone who is sick
- A visitor or newcomer to our assembly – “come home with us”
- Show hospitality to
 - A babe in Christ
 - Someone who needs encouragement
 - Someone in need

What can you and I do to be given to hospitality, to make it happen in our families?

- Decide, purpose, pray, and plan
- Husbands, fathers – leader; priority; provide for
- Wives, mothers – important; not perfect
- Families – involve children in deciding, planning, and preparing