

“I Love My Church”
Learning to Care for One Another!
 Part 8
“The Share—Offer Hospitality to One Another”
“Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.” 1 Peter 4:9
 Love God. Love One Another

A. Hospitality is...

1. Hospitality: *“the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers. Friendliness, warm reception, welcome, helpfulness, neighborliness. Hospitality can be defined as the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way. Literally meaning, love of strangers.”*
2. Commanded to all of us.

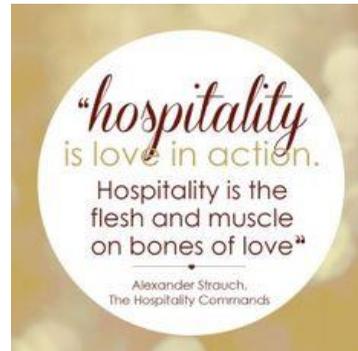
“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” Romans 12:13

3. A spiritual gift as well as a mandate for all of us.

“After she was baptized, along with everyone in her household, she said in a surge of hospitality, ‘If you’re confident that I’m in this with you and believe in the Master truly, come home with me and be my guests.’ We hesitated, but she wouldn’t take no for an answer.” Acts 16:15

4. Putting action to the commands of “love one another.”

“Every time your name comes up in my prayers, I say, ‘Oh, thank you, God!’ I keep hearing of the love and faith you have for the Master Jesus, which brims over to other believers. And I keep praying that this faith we hold in common keeps showing up in the good things we do, and that people recognize Christ in all of it. Friend, you have no idea how good your love makes me feel, doubly so when I see your hospitality to fellow believers.”
Philemon 1:4-7



B. When you practice hospitality, you are showing others what Jesus looks like...

“Everything in the world is about to be wrapped up, so take nothing for granted. Stay wide-awake in prayer. Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless—cheerfully. Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God’s words; if help, let it be God’s hearty help. That way, God’s bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and he’ll get all the credit as the One mighty in everything—encores to the end of time. Oh, yes!”

1 Peter 4:9 The Message

1. When we are giving, we are more like Jesus at that moment than at any other time!

2. We all need to see examples of Jesus in our world.
3. Hospitality is cheerfully sharing our resources, our heart, and our spirit, with those in our world.
4. Hospitality is pointing others to Christ!

“And then, when we saw how Titus felt—his exuberance over your response—our joy doubled. It was wonderful to see how revived and refreshed he was by everything you did. If I went out on a limb in telling Titus how great I thought you were, you didn’t cut off that limb. As it turned out, I hadn’t exaggerated one bit. Titus saw for himself that everything I had said about you was true. He can’t quit talking about it, going over again and again the story of your prompt obedience, and the dignity and sensitivity of your hospitality. He was quite overwhelmed by it all! And I couldn’t be more pleased—I’m so confident and proud of you.” 2 Corinthians 7:13-16

Characteristics of Those with This Gift:

- Are friendly and able to interact with people comfortably
- Like to meet and greet new people and have “never met a stranger”
- Are willing to open up their home to local and traveling members, visitors, and neighbors, perhaps even for extended amounts of time
- Enjoy putting together social parties and get togethers
- Have a strong desire and ability to make strangers and visitors feel welcome.

Application for Church Ministry

- Serve as a greeter for the church
- Invite visitors and new members into your home for dinner
- Serve as a host for small groups
- Throw parties and open your home for ministry team gatherings, new members, holidays, etc. – James Nored

C. Share hospitality with...

1. Strangers!

“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2

“Stay on good terms with each other, held together by love. Be ready with a meal or a bed when it’s needed. Why, some have extended hospitality to angels without ever knowing it! Regard prisoners as if you were in prison with them. Look on victims of abuse as if what happened to them had happened to you.”

Hebrews 13:1-2

2. The family of believers!

“Dear friend, when you extend hospitality to Christian brothers and sisters, even when they are strangers, you make the faith visible. They’ve made a full report back to the church here, a message about your love. It’s good work you’re doing, helping these travelers on their way, hospitality worthy of God himself! They set out under the banner of the Name, and get no help from unbelievers. So they deserve any support we can give them. In providing meals and a bed, we become their companions in spreading the Truth.” 3 John 1:5-8

3. One another!

“When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.” Romans 12:13

Don’t burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don’t quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.” Romans 12:11-13

4. All those God places in your pathway!

“Be sure to welcome our friend Phoebe in the way of the Master, with all the generous hospitality we Christians are famous for. I

heartily endorse both her and her work. She’s a key representative of the church at Cenchrea. Help her out in whatever she asks. She deserves anything you can do for her. She’s helped many a person, including me.” Romans 16:1-2

