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# HOSPITALITY

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## Overview:

Hospitality is one of the most impactful ways to express the love of Jesus toward others. From the people we see regularly at church and Small Groups, to the stranger and those who step into The Rock Church for the first time. As followers of Jesus, the hospitality we demonstrate toward others is a Spirit-empowered practice that will transform every one of our relationships in a truly God honoring way.

## Definition: "Hospitality"

- Greek: φιλοξενία (**philoxenia**)
- *philos*, "friend" and *xenos*, "a stranger"
- love **of** strangers, love **to** strangers

## I. Hospitality in the Bible

- Abram and Melchizedek (Gen. 14:18-20)
- Lot and the Angels (Gen. 19)
- Joseph toward his brothers (Gen. 43:31-34)
- Rahab and the spies (Joshua 2)
- Boaz and Ruth (Ruth 2)
- The widow and Elijah (1 Kg. 17:7-16)
- Parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37)
- Toward Jesus (Lk. 10:38, 11:37-38, 19:1-10)
- Lydia toward Paul (Acts 16:15)
- Phoebe toward Paul (Romans 16:2)

## II. Hospitality in an essential quality of the Christian life.

- a. **The Spiritual Leader** (1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:8)
- b. **Every Believer** (Romans 12:13, 1 Pet 4:9)

## III. Two ways of Hospitality

**Hebrews 13:1-2** Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,

1. **Brotherly Love**  
Friends • Family • Small Group
2. **Hospitality to Strangers**  
Visitors • First Timers • Neighbors

## IV. The Impact of Hospitality

- a. A Feeling of Belonging
- b. Feeling Loved
- c. Feeling Cared For
- d. Can be Therapeutic/Healing

## V. Practical Ways to Grow in Hospitality

- Sharing a meal together
- Inviting a new couple over for dinner
- Open house invite
- Friendsgiving (Thanksgiving)
- Christmas Party (White Elephant)
- Meet up for coffee (**YOU PAY!**)
- Football Sunday party
- Invite the new mom to the park
- Offer free babysitting (date night)
- Deliver a surprise meal/dessert
- Introduce yourself before a church service
- Greet and Welcome at church
- After church invite/hang out(coffee/lunch/dinner)
- Lead a Small Group
- Invite new people to your Small Group (Regularly)

## VI. The Motivation for Hospitality

- a. **God's Grace toward us** (Romans 5:8)
- b. **To be more like Jesus** (Philippians 2:3-5)

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## Supporting Material:

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### Verses:

**Leviticus 19:33-34** When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. 34 You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

**Matthew 25:35-36** For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.

**Luke 14:12-14** When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. 13 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.

**Acts 16:33-34** And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. 34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

**Romans 12:13** Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

**1 Timothy 3:2** Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

**1 Timothy 5:10** and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work.

**Titus 1:7-8** For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, 8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.

**1 Peter 4:9** Show hospitality to one another without grumbling

**Hebrews 13:1-2** Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

### Quotes:

Hospitality is love in action.  
Hospitality is the flesh and muscle on the bones of love.  
- Alexander Strauch

The world could use more ordinary Christians opening their ordinary lives so others can see what life in light of the gospel looks like.  
- Dustin Willis

Hospitality is worth the internal fight.  
- Unknown

Hospitality is a test for godliness because those who are selfish do not like strangers (especially needy ones) to intrude upon their private lives. They prefer their own friends who share their lifestyle. Only the humble have the necessary resources to give of themselves to those who could never give of themselves in return.  
-Erwin W. Lutzer

I think it's more true than ever to say that evangelism is going to look like hospitality... Living courageously will involve living hospitably.  
- Matt Chandler

We love the outsider because we were once the outsider.  
- Unknown

### References:

- *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition* - Christine D. Pohl
- *The Hospitality Commands* - Alexander Strauch