

Sermon Study Guide – March 7, 2021
Be Hospitable To One Another - 1 Peter 4:9

1. Read 1 Peter 4:8-11

⁸ *Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.* ⁹ *Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.* ¹⁰ *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.* ¹¹ *...If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

2. Hospitality Definitions

How do you feel about the following definitions of hospitality? Are they valid?
 What do you like about them? How would you fine-tune them?

Hospitality: It’s the friendly and generous reception and treatment of guests, visitors, or strangers.

Hospitality: the love of strangers

Greek - “**philoxenia**” “phileo” meaning “love” or “tender affection”
 “xenos” meaning “stranger” or “foreigner.”

3. The Spiritual Gift of Hospitality

Name someone you know who has the spiritual gift of hospitality. Do you have it?

Here are a few questions to ask to determine if someone may have the gift of hospitality:

- Do they have a knack for making people feel welcome, whether that’s in their own home, at church, at work, or elsewhere?
 - Are they able to anticipate the needs of guests and strangers?
 - Do they enjoy inviting people into their home for a meal?
 - Do people feel comfortable stopping by their home unannounced?
 - Do they joyfully provide for the needs of their guests?
 - Is their home open to people who might need a place to stay while passing through?
- If the answers to most of these questions is “YES”, they may have the gift of hospitality.

Why should we practice hospitality?

1. Hospitality Is Commanded

The “one another” statements in Scripture are not just suggestions or options. They are directives that we are to obey. God never commands us to do things that we are unable to do. He is able to provide the strength (v.11).

Some people have the spiritual gift of hospitality, but all believers should be hospitable.

Do you consider yourself to be a hospitable person? Why or why not?

What are some of the thoughts or issues or obstacles that limit your hospitality? (stress, mess, fear, introversion, busyness, poverty, privacy, pandemic, kids,....??)

2. Hospitality Meets People’s Needs

Romans 12:13 - *“Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”*

People need a comfortable place to be, food to eat, liquid to drink, social interaction and spiritual encouragement. Hospitality often provides these.

First Peter was written to Christians who were being persecuted. They needed protection, supplies and Christian fellowship. Hospitality provides for the practical needs of people.

Which of these needs do you like to provide through hospitality?

3. Hospitality Is An Act Of Worship

Providing hospitality is one way to **serve God and others**. “Those who **serve**, should do so with the **strength God provides**, so that in all things **God may be praised** through Jesus Christ. **To him be the glory and the power** for ever and ever. Amen.”

Jesus pointed out that we do well when we **feed** the hungry, **give** a drink to the thirsty, **invite** the stranger in, **provide** clothes and **look after** the sick, because whatever we do for one of the least of these, we do it for Jesus (Matt. 25:36-40).

How do you view the relationship between hospitality and worship?

4. Hospitality Develops Community

The early church met in homes and enjoyed “favorable” relationships.

*“They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the **favor** of all the people.”* (Acts 2:46,47)

Large church gatherings are wonderful, but intimacy is more effectively cultivated in a Life Group.

How important is it for you to be part of an intimate, hospitable Christian group?

5. Hospitality Is A Christian Witness

In Acts 2, there’s a close relationship between hospitality and evangelism. We are told that the believers *“broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts...and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

Hospitality is one of the practices that helps to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ.

How often do you invite non-Christians into your home?

6. Hospitality Is An Honorable Skill

Hospitality is listed as a requirement for those who wish to be elders in the church.

To what degree are the elders of your church hospitable?

In the list of prerequisites, how high would you rank the need to be hospitable?

*“An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, **hospitable**, skillful in teaching...”* (1 Timothy 3:2)

*“For the overseer must be beyond reproach as God’s steward, not self-willed,...not greedy for money, but **hospitable**...”* (1 Timothy 3:2)

To what degree have the widows of your church been hospitable?

*“No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, and is known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, **showing hospitality**, washing the feet of the Lord’s people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds”* (1 Timothy 5:9-10).

7. Hospitality May Involve Angels

Hebrews 13 says, *“Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. 2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so, some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”*

Read the story of Abraham and Sarah’s encounter with three “angels.” Genesis 18:1-8

What strikes you about Abraham and Sarah’s hospitality?

Other Biblical Examples of Hospitality To Consider

Lydia	Acts 16:13-15
Aquila & Priscilla	Romans 16:3-5; Acts 18:1-3
Philemon	Philemon 1:1,2,22
Mary & Martha	Luke 10:38-42

How To Show Hospitality: Practical Tips

Tip #1 Don't Grumble About Showing Hospitality

"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling."

Make sure that your attitude is right – don't grumble or complain.

Tip #2 Know The Tension Between Hospitality and Entertainment

Entertaining tends to say, "I want to impress you with my home, my clever decorating, and my gourmet cooking." Entertaining can be motivated by pride and be self-serving.

Hospitality says, "God has blessed me with this home and good food and I'd love to share it with you." Hospitality is focused on serving others.

Tip #3 Begin Small And Keep It Simple

Hospitality is a skill to be learned gradually.

Host one person for "coffee" < talk or play a game < add more people < add dessert

Host one person for a simple meal < add more people

Keep the meal simple – casserole, soup and buns, wieners and beans, Kraft Dinner

Potluck Style - Ask guests to bring a salad or dessert.

Tip #4 Plan Ahead

Consider how, and how often, God would like you to be hospitable.

1 or 2 times/summer; 1 or 2 times/month; 1 or 2 times/week

Make a list of people you would like to invite.

Consider Sunday to be a prime time to show hospitality (after church lunch, fasma, picnic supper...)

Concluding Prayer

Oh God, you are our hospitable Shepherd.

You make us lie down in green pastures.

You lead us beside quiet waters.

You refresh our souls.

O God, we want to be hospitable to strangers and fellow believers.

We ask that you would provide the strength we need,

so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:10,11)

Notes, Quotes, Anecdotes

How do home designs affect hospitality? front porches, garages, dining rooms, living rooms, bedrooms

Fish and visitors smell in three days. Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

Some people can stay longer in an hour than others can in a week.

Hospitality - The ability to make your guests feel at home when you wish they really were.

Visits always give pleasure--if not the coming, then the going.