

*Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2; 1 Peter 4:9*

**Introduction:** "Offer Hospitality to One Another" *1 Peter 4:9*

**I. Hospitality - What It Is**

- A. The Greek word for "hospitable" literally means "lover of strangers," "friend of strangers," or "fond of guests."
- B. Our English word "hospitality" shares the same root as the words "hospital" and "hospice." This reminds us that "hospitality" has to do with care-giving and healing.
- C. Hospitality in The Ancient World
  - Egyptians: secured favorable existence in the afterlife
  - Romans: considered sacred duty
  - Hebrews: Sacred Obligation (*Ex 22:21; 23:9; Lev 19:34*).
- D. The Code of Biblical hospitality
  - 1. Welcome; 2. Conversation; 3. Need meeting; 4. Departure

**II. Hospitality in the Early church**

- A. Persecutions (*Romans 12:13*)
- B. Christian businessmen & women
- C. For the spread of the Gospel. (*3 John 5-9*)

**III. Hospitality – A duty of all Christians**

- A. "Carry each other's burdens" *Galatians 6:2*
- B. "Practice Hospitality" *Romans 12:13*
- C. We are the World's Bible (Annie Johnson Flint)

We are the only Bible  
The careless world will read;  
We are the sinners gospel,  
We are the scoffer's creed;  
We are the Lord's last message,  
Given in deed and word;  
What if the type is crooked?  
What if the print is blurred?  
What if our hands are busy  
With other work than His?  
What if our feet are walking  
Where sin's power is?  
What if our tongues are speaking  
Of things His lips would spurn?  
How can we hope to help Him  
And hasten His return?

**Monday** -- Yesterday in church we 'practiced hospitality'. Our Study Guide this week looks at "What is hospitality?" Read again and pray about our scripture verse *Romans 12:3*. Hospitality is the ability to welcome and graciously serve guests and strangers. The Greek word for "hospitable" literally means "lover of strangers," "friend of strangers," or "fond of guests." Our English word "hospitality" shares the same root as the words "hospital" and "hospice." This reminds us that "hospitality" has to do with care-giving and healing. In extending food, shelter, rest, and good conversation, one is providing a place where people can be healed from the pains and sorrows of this life. This is so important on Sunday mornings!

**Tuesday** -- The Bible contains many examples of hospitality. Abraham and Lot both showed hospitality to men they later discovered to be angels (*Gen 18, 19*). Rebekah opened her home to Abraham's servant (*Gen 24*). And, God's servant Job boasts: (*Job 31:32*) *but no stranger had to spend the night in the street, for my door was always open to the traveler.*

**Wednesday** -- We know that Jesus was always a welcome guest in the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon (*Acts 9:43*). Peter also received an invitation to stay at the home of Cornelius (*Acts 10:48*). Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, invited and persuaded the Apostle Paul to stay at her house (*Acts 16:15*). The converted Philippian jailer brought Paul and Silas into his house and fed them (*Acts 16:34*). On his last trip to Jerusalem, Paul stayed in several homes along the way. He was seven days with disciples at Tyre, one day with brothers at Ptolemais, and a number of days in the home of Philip the evangelist. In Jerusalem Paul stayed at the home of Mnason, an early disciple from Cyprus (*Acts 21:4,7,8,16*).

**Thursday** -- Hospitality is especially required of elders (leaders) and pastors. In the list of qualifications for an overseer (bishop, pastor, elder) in 1 Timothy 3 we find such things as above reproach, one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, no drunkenness, no love for money. Right in the middle is this requirement: hospitable. Pastors and church leaders are to be hospitable, they are to offer hospitality. Furthermore, no widow could be put on the list of widows unless she was well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up her children, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble, and showing hospitality (*1 Tim 5:9-10*).

**Friday** -- We've been studying examples of hospitality in the bible. Let's remember that hospitality is the responsibility of every Christ follower! "Offer hospitality to one another." The Bible says this in more than one place. It tells us "to carry each other's burdens" (*Gal 6:2*), to "do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (*Gal 6:9,10*), and to "practice hospitality" (*Rom 12:13b*). When you come next Sunday, go out of your way to do the 5-10-Line rule and 'practice hospitality!'