

Ministry of Hospitality

Romans 12:10-13 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another... given to hospitality.

Romans 12:13 (Amp) Contribute to the needs of God's people [sharing in the necessities of the saints]; pursue the practice of hospitality.

Definition:

To love strangers; generous to guests

Description

Hospitality is the special ability that God gives to members of the body of Christ to provide open arms, open house and warm welcome for those in need of friendship, a warm welcome, food and lodging.

Usually:

- Friendly
- Trusting
- Sociable
- Caring
- Outgoing
- Responsive
- Relational
- Indulgent

Scriptural Examples:

1. Abraham

Genesis 18:1-8 Then the Lord appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. 2 So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, 3 and said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant. 4 "Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. 5 "And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant." They said, "Do as you have said." 6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes." 7 And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave it to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it. 8 So he took butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate.

2. Martha

Luke 10:38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house

3. Lydia

Acts 16:14-15 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

Characteristics:

1. They provide an environment where people feel valued and cared for
2. They meet new people and help them feel welcomed
3. They create a safe and comfortable setting where relationships can develop
4. They seek ways to connect people together into meaningful relationships
5. They set people at ease in unfamiliar surroundings
6. Their home is a tool for ministry

Misuse of ministry:

1. Should avoid viewing this ministry as just entertaining
2. Should be sensitive to and ask God who to befriend and serve
3. Should be careful that having others over to their home does not create a distressing environment for their family
4. Avoid afflicting guests with family arguments or any unpleasant experiences
5. Your house doesn't have to be perfect, but it is a blessing to be neat and in order

Practical:

1. Be alert at all times to the opportunities to help others
2. Be really interested in other people
3. Take an interest in neighborhood and the others who live there
4. Do something for those who are less fortunate than we are
5. Be motivated by the Spirit of God to minister and not by guilt
6. Keep extra food on hand, and keep refreshments in store for unplanned occasions. Sometimes water is all that is needed
Matthew 10:42 "And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

7. Do not minimize the value of helping someone else

Matthew 7:12 "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets

8. Be open to ministering to the poor and strangers.

Matthew 25:37-40 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 "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.'

9. Exercise discernment. There are "professional poor" who travel or call from church to church. These people have been conditioned by our society to believe that churches are obligated to provide for them. They believe this is owed to them.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

10. Minister to your Christian friends

Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

11. Minister to your lost friends (Love is the best sermon)

Acts 2:46-47 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Complimenting Gifts:

- Helps/Service
- Mercy
- Giving

Ministries:

- Hospitality team leader
- Greeter/Usher
- Small group host
- Sponsor for new families
- Pot blessing host
- Youth ministry

Other Scriptures:

Genesis 19:1-3 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. 2 And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square." 3 But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

Leviticus 19:33-34 "And if a stranger dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him. 34 "The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

1 Timothy 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;

Titus 1:8 (Amp) But he must be hospitable (loving and a friend to believers, especially to strangers and foreigners);

Hebrews 13:1-2 Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

1 Peter 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling

Practical Guidelines for Hosting Guest Ministries

Matthew 10:9-13 "Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, 10 "nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staves; for a worker is worthy of his food. 11 "Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. 12 "And when you go into a household, greet it. 13 "If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

Matthew 10:41 "He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

3 John 1:5-8 Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, 6 who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well, 7 because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. 8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.

1. Find out what foods they like or dislike. Know their schedule and what meals they can participate in.

2. Allow them to have time and space. Some people are talkative and some are not. Some want to spend time in their rooms praying and studying. Give only the readers digest version of your life.

3. Avoid sharing personal issues about church or pastors that will hinder their ability and willingness to prophesy. Sharing problems, complaints, personal, or too much information can prejudice their thinking and hinder them from personal ministry to the body and individuals.

4. Seek to have them leave your home refreshed.