

Hospitality: Making Room for Others

“Hospitality is more than opening our homes; it is opening our hearts and making room for people to experience the love of Christ”

Romans 12:1–13

A. Hospitality Begins With God Welcoming Us

1. We are people who have been welcomed.
2. Ephesians 2:12–13 - we were once “far away,” but Christ has brought us near.
3. John 6:37 says: “Whoever comes to me I will never drive away.”
4. Christian hospitality begins here: God made room for us.
5. We don't welcome people in order to earn God's love.
6. We welcome because we have already received God's love.

B. Jesus Made Room for People Others Overlooked

1. Jesus repeatedly crossed social, religious, and cultural boundaries.
2. He welcomed those others ignored. Mat 9:9–13, Jn 4, Mk 10:13–16, Lk 19:1–10
3. Jesus had a remarkable ability to see people.
4. Hospitality begins with seeing the lonely, struggling, those not fitting in.
5. Hospitality begins when we stop seeing people as interruptions & start seeing them as opportunities to show Christ's love.

C. Hospitality Is More Than Entertaining

1. Entertainment: “Is everything ready?” Hospitality: “Is there room for you?”
2. You don't need a large house, fancy meal, everything together.
3. Hospitality can be a cup of coffee and a listening ear, sharing a meal.
4. It can be sitting beside someone who is alone, making a phone call.
5. It can be offering practical help, or just remembering someone's name.
6. Hospitality means giving something of ourselves: our time, attention, or presence.

D. Hospitality Is Everyone's Ministry

1. Romans 12:13 doesn't say: “If you have the gift of hospitality, practice it.”
2. It simply says: “Practice hospitality.”
3. Hospitality is not the ministry of a select few.
4. It is part of Christian character.

E. Hospitality Opens Doors for the Gospel

1. People often experience Christianity before they understand Christianity.
2. They watch how we treat people.
3. They discover whether the church feels like a family or merely an organisation.
4. They experience whether we genuinely care.
5. Jesus often ministered around tables, Matthew, Zacchaeus .
6. He shared the Last Supper with His disciples.
7. The risen Christ was recognised by His disciples in the breaking of bread.
8. There is something powerful about an open table.

9. An open door can lead to an open conversation.
10. An open conversation can lead to a relationship.
11. A relationship can create an opportunity for testimony.
12. And testimony can create an opportunity for the Gospel.
13. Hospitality doesn't replace evangelism.
14. Hospitality can create the relational space in which evangelism becomes possible.

F. Make Room Beyond Your Natural Circle

1. Luke 14 - do not simply invite people who could invite them back.
2. He said to make room for people who could not repay them.
 - a. That challenges us to ask: Who is lonely? hurting? overlooked? an outsider?
 - b. Who could use a friend? Who has God placed in my path?
3. The easiest people to welcome are the people who are already part of our circle.
4. Christian hospitality asks us to expand the circle.

G. The Challenge: Make Room for One More

1. So what does "Practice hospitality" look like this week?
2. Maybe it means welcoming someone you don't know.
3. Maybe it means inviting someone for coffee, maybe sharing a meal.
4. Maybe it means sitting beside someone who is alone, or is hurting.
5. Maybe it means noticing the person everyone else seems to overlook.
6. The question isn't: "Do I have enough?"
7. The question is: "Is there room for one more?"
8. Because ultimately, hospitality isn't about having the perfect home.
9. It's about making people feel at home.
10. It isn't primarily about food. It's about fellowship.
11. It isn't simply about opening our doors. It's about opening our hearts.
12. And ultimately, Christian hospitality points beyond us to Christ.
13. We welcome because Christ welcomed us.
14. We serve because Christ served us.
15. We make room because Christ made room for us.
16. Romans 12:13 says: "Practice hospitality."
17. So this week, ask yourself: Who can I welcome?
18. Someone new. Someone lonely. Someone hurting. Someone different.
19. Someone who needs to know that they matter.
20. And perhaps the simplest definition of Christian hospitality is:
21. Make room for one more.