

**LOVE**  
**Without Hypocrisy**  
 (in the book of Romans)  
  
**26 – Hospitality**

**HOSPITALITY**

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.  
Romans 12:13 (NIV)

**This does not refer to what WE often call "hospitality"**  
 – visiting each other and having meals together.

- It goes much deeper and focuses on genuine needs within the Christian community.
- It is a practical way of expressing the "koinonia-fellowship" mentioned in the first part of the verse.

**What most people today call "hospitality" can be good ... or not.**

Luke 14:1-24 – A **BAD** example:  
 Excluding people who cannot return the favor.

- **The event:**
  - Jesus was at a banquet, 1) hosted by a prominent leader, 2) with prominent people as the guests.
  - They were all competing for honor and prestige, and trying to impress each other!

- **What Jesus told them:**

Then [Jesus] turned to his host. "When you put on a luncheon or a dinner," he said, "don't invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will repay you by inviting you back. Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind."  
Luke 14:12-13 (NLT)
- **What this meant:**
  - **NOT:** "Never do anything with your friends!"
  - **Rather:** "Don't show favoritism; stop doing things based on status or potential 'payback.' "



- **Jesus was opposing attitudes such as this:**

The poor are despised even by their neighbors, while the rich have many "friends."  
Proverbs 14:20 (NLT)
- **As Scripture warns us...**

... don't show favoritism.  
James 2:1b (NIV)

If you love those who love you, do you deserve any thanks for that? Even sinners love those who love them.  
Luke 6:32 (GW)

**"Hospitality" in the Old/New Testament era**

- **It refers to providing for the needs of "strangers."**

= People who are not part of your "circle of friends."  
 = Examples: Travelers, refugees.

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- **Scripture shows us that it is a moral obligation.**
  - In the Old/New Testament era, even unsaved people tended to consider it the right thing to do.
- **Not doing it is sin.**
  - Then, as now, many people sin and refuse to offer hospitality. Their sin does not remove the obligation.

**An example of unsaved people showing hospitality to people who were shipwrecked**

The people who lived on the island were unusually kind to us [Paul/others]. They made a fire and welcomed all of us around it because of the rain and the cold. [The governor of the island]... welcomed us and treated us kindly, and for three days we were his guests. They showed respect for us in many ways, and when we were going to set sail, they put whatever we needed on board.

Acts 28:2, 7, 10 (GW)

- God also allowed Paul to heal some of the islanders!

**"Hospitality" – To WHOM?**

- The #1 DUTY – To traveling relatives.
- The #2 DUTY – To others.

←-----→

➤ Remember this when you read that Joseph and Mary were looking for a place to stay at an inn.

...there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7b (NASB)

➤ Joseph's relatives thought he was marrying an immoral woman. It shamed the entire family clan; so they basically disowned him.

**"Hospitality" – To WHOM?**

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**GUESS WHAT!!!**

➤ If you are a follower of Jesus, then all other followers of Jesus are your family, your relatives!

Practice hospitality. Romans 12:13b (NIV)

➤ You have a #1 DUTY to help them, if it is needed!

**A Short History Lesson! "In the early church..."**

➤ There were two main groups of Christians who would be traveling and need a place to stay:

- Traveling teachers and missionaries.
- Persecuted Christians – refugees because of their faith.

➤ Why might they not stay in a hotel?

- Most of them were poor, and could not afford it.
- The hotels of that day were often dangerous places to stay (and often houses of ill repute).
  - Even Christians who had the money would try to avoid such places!

**This duty is an OBLIGATION for all Christians**

- There are three general commands that show this:
  - 1) **1 Peter 4:9** - says to offer hospitality to "one another," that is, to fellow Christians.
  - 2) **Romans 12:13** - mentions it within the context of koinonia-fellowship (which only Christians can have).
  - 3) **Hebrews 13:2** - mentions it within the context of:
    - 1) love for fellow Christians (13:1), and 2) persecution of Christians (mentioned several times the book of Hebrews).

**This duty is a PREREQUISITE for certain opportunities**

- A qualification for being a leader in the church:
  - 1) **1 Timothy 3:2** – The overseer must be ... hospitable.
  - 2) **Titus 1:8** – An overseer must be ... hospitable.
- One of the "good deeds" that qualifies a widow for receiving financial support from the church:
  - 1) **1 Timothy 5:9-10** – She must be known for her good deeds, such as... showing hospitality to strangers.

### What about hospitality toward non-family (i.e., unsaved people)?

- **Specific commands?**  
NONE in the New Testament. (All the commands are about our duty toward our Christian family.)
- **A general obligation?**  
Our basic duty to "love our neighbor" may require it in certain situations.
  - **Luke 10:29-37** – The parable of the good Samaritan.
  - **Also** – Various Old Testament examples.

### Restrictions?

- **Regarding our Christian family:** The basic principles of koinonia\* would apply in our interactions with Christians.
- **Regarding all:** The need must be legitimate.
  - It's not that you must provide free room and board for every lazy bum that happens to come to your door!

I HEAR YOU GOT A FREE PLACE TO STAY!



\* (We looked at these in previous weeks.)

### There are times we must refuse to provide hospitality!

- 1) "Believers" who refuse to repent of ongoing sin – don't associate with them: 1 Corinthians 5:11.
- 2) "Church-goers" who still live like the world (this is the same as *denying* God's life-changing power) – avoid them: 2 Timothy 3:1-5.
- 3) People who cause divisions over trivial matters – warn them twice, then avoid them: Titus 3:9-11.
- 4) False teachers, deceivers – do not welcome them into your house: 3 John 1:7-11.

### REWARDS for this Hospitality?

[Some passages do mention rewards; but...]

- If love is our motivation, we don't need a reward!
  - It will be joy enough to know this: Jesus views it as showing hospitality to him!

... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.

Matthew 25:40b (NIV)

### REWARDS for this Hospitality?

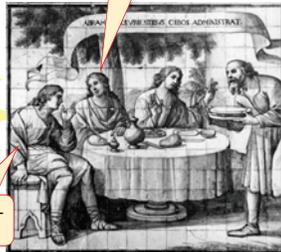
[It's NOT what motivates us, but...]

- You never know who the "stranger" might be!

... some believers have shown hospitality to angels without being aware of it.

Hebrews 13:2b (GW)

WE ARE WELL-DISGUISED!



### HOW TO DO IT: ABOUT THE WORD "PRACTICE"

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:13 (NIV)

- This word is often translated as "pursue."

- We are to actively "pursue" or "chase after" opportunities to do it!

**Pursue... chase after... look for...**

- Situations\* may have changed (since back then),  
 but the command hasn't.
- IT'S TO BE ACTIVE** - We are still to "chase after" the opportunities that may exist.
- NOT TO BE PASSIVE** - This command tells us we aren't to sit back and wait for them to ask!
- WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE** - We are to do it in love, with a joyful eagerness (i.e., without complaining – 1 Peter 4:9)!

\* (Including the ways we can fulfil this obligation.)

**We need to**



**I SEE ONE!**

**for opportunities!**

**A POTENTIAL PROBLEM...**

**WHAT IF FAMILY MEMBERS ARE UNSAVED AND WILL NOT COOPERATE?**

**IT'S STILL A COMMAND.**

- IF it was by **CHOICE** that you entered into such a situation (such as deliberately marrying an unsaved person) ...  
 – You are experiencing the *consequences* of your sin.
- You may still be able to help and encourage others who can do it. – Perhaps you can work with them as a *team*.

**Your Mission...**

**CONSIDER WAYS TO EXPRESS "KOINONIA-LOVE" TO OTHERS IN YOUR CHRISTIAN FAMILY!**

**(EVEN TO THOSE YOU HAVE NEVER MET BEFORE!)**

**WHERE MIGHT OPPORTUNITIES BE FOUND?**  
**HOW CAN YOU (OR ALL OF US) RESPOND TO THEM?**

**KOINONIA-LOVE CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MANY WAYS**

**Share** with God's people who are in need.  
Romans 12:13a (NIV)

**Practice hospitality.**  
Romans 12:13b (NIV)

**HOSPITALITY IS ONE OF THEM**

**Credits**

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# Your Mission...

**"Practice hospitality."**

**Romans 12:13b**

**PRACTICE** - To *pursue, chase after, or look for* opportunities.

**HOSPITALITY** - providing for the needs of "strangers" - travelers and refugees who are part of our Christian family.

**DOCTORS "PRACTICE" MEDICINE:  
IT'S PART OF "WHAT THEY DO."**

**GOD'S PEOPLE ARE TO  
"PRACTICE" HOSPITALITY: IT  
MUST BE PART OF "WHAT WE DO."**

**To "pursue" or "chase after" something**

(Translated here as "practice.")

**This word may be translated as "persecute."**

- This is how Paul treated Christians before he was saved. He "chased after" them, in order to hurt or kill them.

**This word may be translated as "pursue."**

- We are to "pursue" or "chase after" hospitality. We should do it with *more eagerness* than the persecutors of Christians have, when they are "chasing after" us!

**Here are some other things we should "pursue."**

(The word may be translated different ways.)

- Romans 14:19 - Things that lead to peace/building up others.
- 1 Corinthians 14:1 - Love.
- Philippians 3:12, 14 (see v. 7-14) - The goal (= the prize that God has called us to receive: God's righteousness, the resurrection from the dead, etc.).
- 1 Thessalonians 5:15 - Things that are good/kind.
- 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22 - Various godly character traits (two lists).
- Hebrews 12:14 - Peace and holiness; 1 Peter 3:11 - Peace.

**"Hospitality" - "love for strangers"**

**This word is a combination of 2 words:**

- **"Love"** - The New Testament word for "love" that indicates "a very strong friendship love."
- **"Stranger"** or foreigner - Someone from another location.

**It's a duty; and the New Testament has many examples of it being done.**

- The N.T. has many examples of God's people: 1) offering others a place to stay; or, 2) needing a place to stay - Mark 6:7-13; Luke 10:1-12; Acts 10:6, 18; 11:19; 21:16; Romans 16:23; Philemon 1:22; 3 John 1:5-8; etc.
- God's people have a special *duty* toward others who are a part of God's family. After all, 1) they are *family* (relatives in Christ); and 2) the world often has more interest in *hurting*, than *helping* them!
- If needed, churches would write "letters of recommendation" for the travelers - Acts 18:27; 1 Corinthians 16:3.