

Hospitality

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

Hebrews 13:1-2

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

Romans 12:13

The essence of hospitality is a heart open to God, with room prepared for the Guestness of the Holy Spirit, that welcomes the presence of Christ. This is what we share with those to whom we open our doors. We give them him.

Karen Burton Mains

What is Hospitality?

Philoxenia (Greek word for hospitality in the New Testament) – love of the stranger and those who are far from home. It is the opposite of xenophobia (fear of the stranger and those who are far from home).

- Treating strangers and friends alike
- Welcoming one another into our homes and lives
- Showing and exhibiting brotherly love to strangers and those who are far from home, those who are not in our immediate circle of friends and/or family
- It is not entertainment. Entertainment seeks to impress; hospitality seeks to bless.

Hospitality is a spiritual practice. It is an act of worship. Sacrificial love. It is a form of evangelism – a tangible expression of God's love. It is for everyone! You have something to offer someone.

Hospitality during COVID

While welcoming one another into our homes is not possible in the same ways during COVID, we can still welcome one another into our lives. Perhaps this means phone calls to show love and care to those more isolated than ourselves. Or taking a meal or treats to someone when we can't invite them to our homes to share life over the table together. Perhaps this mean sharing and praying together over a long walk instead of over coffee or tea in your living room. Let's be creative about how we can still welcome one another during this time.

Think about how we can creatively work to cultivate hospitality in our homes, communities, families, church, and country during COVID and in the years to come.