

### **Definition of Hospitality:**

- Erin McLeod *"The willingness to give cheerfully of your heart, home, time, energy and talents; to extend kindness and welcome to others."*
- Reflect the nature of God: Compassionate. Self-Sacrificing. Others First. Obedient.

### **Verses on Hospitality:**

Romans 12:13- *contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.* **Love**

1 Peter 4:9-*Be hospitable to one another without complaint.* **Enthusiasm**

1 Timothy 5:9-10-*A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man, having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work.* **Sacrificial**

1 Timothy 6:17-19-*Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.* **Generous**

Titus 1:7-8-(1 Tim? 3:2) *For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled."* **Character**

Hebrews 13:1-2- *Let love of the brethren continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.* **Gospel**

Proverbs 19:17-*One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, And He will repay him for his good deed."* **Compassion**

### **Hospitality in the Church today** by Alexander Strauch-1993

"I don't think most Christians today understand how essential hospitality is to fanning the flames of love and strengthening the Christian family. Hospitality fleshes out love in a uniquely personal and sacrificial way. Through the ministry of hospitality, we share our most prized possessions. We share our family, home, finances, food, privacy, and time. Indeed, we share our very lives. So, hospitality is always costly. Through the ministry of hospitality, we provide friendship, acceptance, fellowship, refreshment, comfort, and love in one of the richest and deepest ways possible for humans to understand. Unless we open the doors of our homes to one another, the reality of the local church as a close-knit family of loving brothers and sisters is only a theory.

A cold, unfriendly church contradicts the gospel message. Yet unfriendliness stands out as one of the most common criticisms people have of local churches. It doesn't take people long to figure out that there is a "churchy" love among Christians that ends at the back door of the sanctuary or in the parking lot. It is a superficial, Sunday-morning kind of love that is unwilling to venture beyond the walls of the church building.

Brotherly love, however, entails intimate relationship, care for one another, knowledge of one another, belonging together, and sharing life together. We cannot know or grow close to our brothers and sisters by meeting for an hour and fifteen minutes a week with a large group in a church sanctuary. The home is the ideal place in which to build relationships and closeness. IN most instances, we hardly even know one another until we get in one another's homes, eat together, and talk with one another across the table.

I often hear people say, "Oh, we just don't know anyone; we can't make any friends at church." I have a suggestion that might solve the problem. It comes from a couple who had a hard time feeling as if they belonged in their congregation. Instead of leaving, as so many people do, they decided to invite every person in the church to their home for dinner during the next year. By the end of the year, they knew everyone in the church and had made a number of close friends."

### **Why Do We Not Show Hospitality?**

### **Hospitality Acrostic** Ennis and Tatlock

- H**-umble                      We are not to be autonomous nor self-sufficient/leave your comfort zone
- O**-bedient                      Follow the Bible's commands because of 1 Samuel 15:22 and 1 John 2:3-6
- S**-incere                              Have the right attitude when you obey. Others-focused.
- P**-rayerful                      All other aspects here require prayer--dependence upon God's strength.
- I**-nterested in Integrity              No compromise! Cultivate a blameless life.
- T**-rustworthy              Sincere, sacrificial, place of refuge, patient, compassionate, confidante.
- A**-dopted into God's Family              Reflect the love of your spiritual adoption upon the household of faith. Depend on and act like your adopted Father. Holy. Peaceful. Forgiving. Merciful. Generous. Dependent upon God.
- L**-ed by the Spirit.              Be hospitable through and for God's glory! It may exhaust me, guests may not be thankful or may criticize. I may learn of others blessings or burdens. I seek to have God cultivate the fruit of His spirit in me.
- I**-nstrumental in Producing Righteousness.              Sanctifies anxiety, money, time, patience, loving the unloveable, selfishness, comfort zones, thoughts(Phil. 4:8),
- T**-hankful                      Col. 3:15. An unthankful heart will never hospitalize. All I have is His to be used for Him, through Him, because of Him.
- Y**-ielded.                      Rom. 6:19. Willing and joyful to follow God's leading and commands.

"While entertaining is having guests with everything prepared and served correctly, hospitality is having people feel comfortable in my home and happy to be there no matter what we are doing or eating." Laurie Twibell

### **Hospitality and Children:**

"Treat your family like guests and your guests like family".

"If our children feel unloved, abandoned or ignored while we diligently extend hospitality to friends and strangers, we have opened the door for developing bitterness and animosity toward hospitality in the hearts of our children." Lisa Tatlock

1. Include in prep.
2. Allow extra time.
3. Set aside to-do lists for their needs
4. Guarding relationships from perfectionism
5. Recognize people will be watching your parenting and family interactions.  
BE godly so that you can show others how Godliness works out in the home.

### **Teaching Manners:**

1. Preparing for others
2. Serving others
3. Deferring to guests and elders
4. Table manners practice
5. Learning how to be conversationalists.

### Practical Points for Hospitality

#### Who?

1. Family - Our primary opportunity and sometimes, sanctification.
2. Friends - Our joy.
3. Women - Mutual edification and/or discipleship
4. Singles - Involving those not just like us. Adopting those younger or older.
5. Large families - They don't get asked much, and they don't eat as much as you think.
6. Visitors/Strangers- Getting outside your comfort zone. Welcoming and blessing.
7. Leadership/missionaries- An easy way to show thankfulness and learn how to pray.
8. Servants you want to thank- Childrens' teachers, those you see working hard behind scenes
9. Anyone/Everyone- Show no partiality. Rich. Poor. Friends. Strangers.

#### How?

1. Mac and Cheese Friends.  
*"If you're coming to see me, come over any time.  
If you're coming to see my house, give me two week's notice."*
2. Prepare your heart
3. Prepare your home and food
  - A. Food
  - B. House
  - C. Atmosphere
  - D. Starting with enough time to accomplish the work
4. Preplan the time
  - A. Questions to get to know them
  - B. Testimonies/ Spiritual conversation
  - C. Games or activities (campfire, walk, etc)

#### When?

5. Afternoon teatime Less prep and cost, elegant and lovely.
6. Fancy Dinners Table décor and more pricey foods.
7. Casual Dinners Comfort foods and comfortability.
8. Group meals Kill more birds with one stone.
9. Holidays Invite over those who don't have family
10. Sunday Lunch Continue the conversation after church! (Deli meats)
11. Overnights Open your home to travelers, family, etc.
12. Restaurants/Picnics/Parties Showing hospitality outside the home. Still your planning, time and \$\$

Little Tidbits from Jill:

- Rely on your husband's leadership, seasons, requests in this area.
- The most outgoing spouse can lead the way.
- Don't have so much hospitality you neglect your primary responsibilities (family, home)
- Guard people's time
- Be willing to be spontaneous as needs come up.
- Be careful about always talking about having people over and never doing it.
- Don't spend your whole time making excuses for or complaining about your home.
- Consider the phrase "backdoor friends are best." Comfortability.
- Allow others to contribute.
- Keep easy emails on hand for spur of the moment hostessing.
- Pray before people leave. "Let's pray before you go" for dawdlers ;-)
- Consider traditions. Same people, same time or place. Tablecloth or guestbook.
- Consider delivering hospitality: food, flowers, etc.
- Take a hostess gift when you are invited over the first time (or every time.)
- Make your home open to your kids friends. Be the teen hangout.
- Consider hospitality functionality when buying a home.
- Keep a stock of toys and a portable high chair and crib for visitors.
- Start a ministry at your church: Suppers for 6, home group meals, etc.
- Remember again the difference between hospitality and entertaining.
- Don't quit. Be persistent.

**Resources:**

The Hospitality Commands      Alexander Strauch  
Practicing Hospitality      Pat Ennis and Lisa Tatlock  
The Masters Seminary Wives audio:  
10/18/17 Hospitality by Beth & Karen Busenitz  
02/03/16 Skill: Hospitality by Karen Busenitz

## Hospitality Meal Ideas:

### After Church Meals:

- Deli meat and cheese, rolls, chips, veggie tray
- Crock Pot roast, potatoes, carrots, biscuits, fruit salad
- Grilled Cheese sandwiches and tomato soup

### Casual Dinners:

- Chicken Supreme, Rice, Salad
- Make ahead Lasagna, garlic bread, broccoli
- White chicken chili, jack cheese, tortilla chips, avocado
- Crock pot pork roast with marinade, roasted sweet potatoes and green beans
- BBQ meat, make ahead pasta salad, chips and salsa
- Taco Bar-(but this can be more time consuming)
- Salsa chicken, cilantro rice, Caesar salad

### Fancy Dinners:

- Tri-Tip marinade roast, bacon green beans, mashed potatoes, berry pie á la mode
- Chicken Cordon Bleu, smashed potatoes, honey dill carrots, tiramisu
- Turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry relish, green beans, gravy, rolls
- Steak, Baked Potatoes, garden salad, cheesecake

### Groups:

- Spaghetti, garlic bread, garden salad
- Fajitas with tortillas, rice, cheese, salsa, chips and beans on the side
- Homemade pizzas, fruit assortment
- Taco Salad, croissant rolls
- Chicken pot pie, fruit kabobs
- Chili, cheese and chips, cornbread and honey

### Teens:

- Taquitos or quesadillas, queso dip, refried beans, fruit
- Frozen, homemade or delivery pizza(4/large)
- Sub sandwich rings, chips
- Campfire with hot dogs and s'mores
- Nachos
- Popcorn and smoothies

### Afternoon Tea:

- Cut up veggies and/or fruit on hand
- Nuts
- Meat or PBJ sandwiches cut into cute little shapes
- Scones-chocolate chip drop scones, oatmeal cinnamon or box mix
- Cookies, brownies, bars or cut up granola bars
- Tea assortment, sugar cubes, ice and half and half