

Given To Hospitality

Introduction

Scripture Reading: **Genesis 18:1-8**

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

1. **The subject of hospitality is not discussed very often from the pulpit.**
 - A. **It may be because it is a hard subject to teach on.**
2. **Hospitality Defined:** “the act, practice, or quality of being hospitable; solicitous entertainment of guests”
 - A. **Solicitous:** “showing care, attention or concern”
3. **The Bible clearly teaches the responsibility for every Christian to be hospitable.**

Romans 12:13-14 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

1 Peter 4:8-9 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

3. **This evening, let us notice some of the Bible teaching and the advantages of hospitality.**

It Is a Duty of the Men Who Serve as Elders

1. **A shepherd cannot tend the flock as he should without being acquainted with the needs of each "sheep".**

Titus 1:8-9 but **hospitable**, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,

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;

2. **The flock in turn needs to know the elders that are shepherding them.**

1 Thessalonians 5:12-14

It Is a Duty of Every Christian

Romans 12:13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

1. **You and I cannot bear one another's burdens (Gal 6:2), if we do not know one another!**
2. **The admonition -"not even to eat with such a person" (1 Cor 5:11) implies that you should have been eating with him before.**

1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner--not even to eat with such a person.

3. **The one who shows hospitality is usually blessed more than the one who receives it.**

Hebrews 13:2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

A. Also Lot (Gen 19:1-11) and Abraham (Gen 18:1-8).

Some Results of Hospitality

1. **It helps in converting the lost.**
 - A. **People should not be converted by friendliness in itself, but many are not converted because of a lack of it!**
 - B. **At many church buildings, the same people talk with the same people, in the same place, service after service.**
 - 1) **We need to look around and meet the visitors and other members. Sometimes without realizing it, we are playing favorites and neglecting others.**
 - a) **Everyone wants to belong, let's ensure that we are taking time to ensure everyone feels at home in God's family!**
 - C. **The story is told that a preacher spoke on the subject: "Will we recognize one another in heaven?" Afterwards a visitor went out the door and said: "I have been here several times and no one has recognized me here yet."**

2. It helps prevent apostasy.**A. Evil companionships corrupt good morals.**

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

1) Peter even got caught up with the wrong crowd.

Luke 22:54-62

B. Early Christians ate together, thus were able to encourage one another.

Acts 2:44-46

C. How long has it been since you have invited another Christian to eat with you? How long has it been since you have been invited (and accepted the invitation) to eat with another Christian?**D. Hospitality should not have to be preceded by the word "old-fashioned"!****E. Many souls could be saved from backsliding if we would make the effort to get acquainted with them by showing hospitality.**

3. It helps prevent division.

- A. Getting acquainted is closely connected with getting along.**
 - B. When we do not sincerely know one another it is easy to jump to erroneous conclusions.**
 - 1) Many times people become angry with a person simply because they do not know them. Have you ever heard the statement: "They would have to be friends to talk to one another like that"?**
 - C. Will Rogers once said: "There goes a man I don't like; I think I'll get acquainted with him."**
 - D. A Christian cannot just decide that we don't like someone and ignore them.**
 - 1) The works of the flesh deals with this matter. Notice the works:
Galatians 5:19-21**
 - a) Most of the things mentioned have to do with attitude toward others.**
 - 2) Backbiting and whisperings as Paul mentions in 2 Cor 12:20 would disappear if we associated with one another enough to understand one another.**
- 2 Corinthians 12:20 For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults;
- 3) If there is a principle of truth involved, then strife is necessary, but many times division comes over misunderstandings instead of issues.**

Conclusion

1. There are some congregations that have trouble getting enough people to feed a visiting preacher during a week meeting!
 - A. The attitude of some is demonstrated in the story of the little boy who told the visiting preacher at lunch: "We're having buzzard for dinner." His mother quickly reprimanded him, but the boy said, "You said yesterday that we may as well go ahead and have the old buzzard and get it over with."
2. If we do not enjoy being in one another's company, why should those that are not Christians desire to associate with us?
 - A. The gospel is God's power to save, but as we have learned this evening, God's word teaches us to be hospitable.
3. When we consider all the advantages of hospitality, no wonder the Lord taught us to be "given (addicted) to" it!
4. Let us show our hospitality and love toward one another as we continue to grow numerically and spiritually as a congregation.

