



“Be Our Guest”
Romans 12:13
Romans 12: Devoted to Service

Romans 12:13 – “...contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.”

I. SHARING NEEDS

The Greek verb “contributing” is *koinōnéō* – to share, have in common, take part with someone. It’s the same word we get “fellowship” from.

John Murray – “We are to identify ourselves with the needs of the saints *and make them our own.*”

It’s a willing partnership, sharing the burdens of another as though we suffered with them. In a world bent on getting, the Christian is bent on giving.

The early church in Jerusalem modeled this spirit of generosity (Acts 4:32, 34-35).

What are some ways we can meet the needs of others?

- Physical support
- Emotional support
- Financial support
 - Nearly three billion people are living on less than two dollars a day, and over a billion of them dwell in desperate poverty.
 - Randy Alcorn – “God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.”

Who should we help?

Questions to ask...

- Is there really a crisis at hand?
- Is this person responsible for his crisis?
- Can this person help himself?
- Has he already been receiving relief from others in the past?

If we do give relief, it should be seldom, immediate, and temporary.

Are you sharing the needs of others?

- 1 Corinthians 16:1-3
- Matthew 25:31-46

II. PURSUING HOSPITALITY

“Hospitality” – from two Greek words: *philos* (love/friend) + *zenos* (stranger).

“Practicing” – Greek: *diōkō* – literally to pursue, chase, or hunt.

- Don’t just wait for opportunities to come to you. Pursue them!

Hospitality in Middle Eastern Culture

- Regarded by most nations of the ancient world as one of the chief virtues.
- Hospitality was regarded as a right by the traveler and a duty by the host, who himself may very soon be dependent on someone else's hospitality.

Hospitality in the New Testament

- Hospitality is a way of life for Jesus and his disciples (Mk 6:7-11)
- Hospitality is a requirement for elders (1 Timothy 3:2; Tit 1:8)
- Hospitality is expected of all believers (Romans 12:13)
- Hospitality is to be practiced willingly, without complaining (1 Peter 4:8-9)
- Hospitality may result in unexpected blessings (Hebrews 13:1)

Discussion Questions and Action Items:

1. Can you think of a time when a fellow believer “shared your need” with you and made it their own? How did that make you feel?
2. Are you more likely to meet someone’s need by giving them physical support, emotional support, or financial support? Why do you think that is?
3. How does a conscientious Christian determine a proper level of living in light of appalling world poverty? Is it wrong to live comfortably while people are starving?
4. What’s the difference between the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46?
5. What did you learn about hospitality in this message? What are some ways you can “pursue hospitality?”