

## DOCTRINE OF HOSPITALITY

### 1. Definition:

Hospitality is the generous and cordial welcome, reception, treatment, and disposition of guests. Hospitality involves establishing a pleasant or sustaining environment for others.

### 2. Vocabulary:

- a. φιλόξεनिया- philoxenia - (Greek noun) hospitality, love of strangers (Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:2)
  - (1) φίλος - philos - (Gk. n.) love, rapport love
  - (2) ξένος - xenos - (Gk. n.) stranger, alien, foreigner, host
- b. φιλόξενος - philoxenos - (Gk. adjective) hospitable (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8; 1 Peter 4:9)
- c. ξενοδοχέω - xenodocheo - (Gk. verb.) to show hospitality to strangers (sojourners), to lodge strangers (1 Tim. 5:10)
- d. ξενίζω - xenidzo - (Gk. v.) to receive as a guest, to entertain, to lodge (Acts 17:20; 28:7; Heb. 13:2; 1 Peter 4:4, 12)
- e. ξενία - xenia - (Gk. n.) hospitality, guest room (Acts 28:23; Philemon 22)
- f. ξενος - xenos - (Gk. n.) host, guest, stranger
  - (1) host - Rom. 16:23
  - (2) guest - 3 John 5
  - (3) stranger - Matt. 27:7; 25:35, 38, 43, 44
- g. ἐπιδέχομαι - epidechomai - (Gk. v.) to receive as a guest, accept or recognize (3 John 9, 10)
- h. εὐμετάδοτος - eumetadotos - (Gk. adj.) generous (found only once in 1 Tim. 6:18)
- i. κοινωνικός - koinonikos - (Gk. adj.) generous, ready to share (what is one's own) (found only once in 1 Tim. 6:18)
- j. πανδοχεύς - pandocheus - (Gk. n.) innkeeper (Luke 10:35)
- k. προπέμπω - propempo - (Gk. v.) to send forward on a journey, to send on one's way (Acts 15:3; Rom. 15:24; 1 Cor. 16:6, 11; 2 Cor. 1:16; Titus 3:13; 3 John 6)

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1. ὑπολαμβάνω - hupolambano - (Gk. v.) to receive (as a guest),  
(3 John 8)
- m. Synonyms:
  - (1) *“doing a faithful deed”* (3 John 5)
  - (2) *“laboring with respect to the brethren and to strangers”* (3 John 5)
  - (3) *“you do well to send forward in a manner worthy of God”* (3 Jn. 6)
3. Hospitality is required of overseers, pastor-teachers. (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8)
4. Hospitality is a test of Christian character and must be motivated by faith and the filling of the Holy Spirit. (1 Tim. 5:10; 3 John 5, 8; 1 Peter 4:9 with Phil. 2:12-15 and Gal. 5:22)
5. The word of God encourages us to show hospitality as the natural function of our royal priesthood. (1 Tim. 6:18, 19; Heb. 13:1, 2)
6. Hospitality is to be shown specifically to the following:  
**NOTE:** This takes discernment and objective thinking!
  - a. Strangers, aliens (those unfamiliar with the area) (Exodus 22:21; 23:9, 12; Levit. 19:33, 34; Deut. 14:28, 29; Heb. 13:2; 3 John 5; with Gen. 18:3; 19:2)
  - b. The poor (Isa. 58:7; Luke 14:13)
  - c. Your enemies, adversaries (not those who are an immediate threat to you) (2 Kings 6:22, 23; Rom. 12:20)
7. Hospitality involves logistical grace provision on behalf of other believers known or unknown. (3 John 5-8)
8. Hospitality, therefore, includes providing such things as: food, clothing, shelter (lodging), expense money, or total underwriting as in the case of pastor-teachers or evangelistic missionaries. (3 John 5-8)
9. Hospitality can be given over a long term (Phil. 4:15-19) or for a short term (Acts 28:7).
10. Hospitality should be given unconditionally since it is grace giving. (2 Cor. 9:7)
11. Hospitality is a mental attitude first. (Rom. 12:9 with Rom. 12:2, 8, 9-13)
12. No hospitality is to be shown to evil, to evil doers, those who cause strife and foolish controversy, or to those who follow and teach false doctrine. (Rom. 12:9; 16:17; 1 Thess. 5:22; Titus 3:9, 10; 2 John 9-11)

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13. When we show hospitality to strangers, it is a sharing with Christ. (Matt. 25:35-40)

14. Human hospitality is a reflection of God's hospitality to come in the millennial kingdom. (Luke 14:16, 21-23)

15. Old Testament examples of hospitality:

- a. Abraham entertains the Lord and two angels – Gen. 18:3-8
- b. Lot entertains two angels – Gen. 19:2, 3
- c. Laban entertains Jacob – Gen. 29:13, 14
- d. Joseph entertains his brothers – Gen. 43:15-34
- e. Jethro entertains Moses – Ex. 2:15-22
- f. Manoah entertains the Lord – Judges 13:2-23
- g. Samuel entertains Saul – 1 Sam. 9:15-27
- h. Shunamite woman entertains Elisha – 2 Kings 4
- i. Job's hospitality – Job 31:17-32

16. New Testament examples of hospitality:

- a. Zaccheus entertains the Lord – Luke 19:1-6
- b. Samaritan entertains the Lord – John 4:39, 40
- c. Mnason entertains Paul, Luke and other disciples – Acts 21:15-17
- d. Lydia entertains Paul and Luke – Acts 16:13-15
- e. Publius entertains Paul and Luke – Acts 28:7
- f. Titus is requested to show hospitality to Zenas and Apollos at Crete – Titus 3:13, 14
- g. The Lord entertains 5,000 plus with two fishes and five loaves of bread – Matt. 14:15-21
- h. Jesus receives hospitality. (Luke 19:1-9)
- i. Martha and Mary entertained the Lord – Luke 10:38-42
- j. Paul receives hospitality from the Philippian church – Phil. 4:15-19
- k. Paul's request for hospitality – Philemon 22
- l. Gaius entertains many – 3 John 5, 6