

# The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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## What Hospitality Will Accomplish

*by Dempsey Collins*

### I. IT IS OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD

- A. (Romans 12:13) “Contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality”
- B. (I Peter 4:9) “Be hospitable to one another without complaint”
- C. Hospitality is as much a part of our faithfulness to God as repentance and baptism.

### II. IT IS OF GREAT HELP TO OTHERS

- A. Hospitality helps to teach others about love.
  - 1. What better way to learn about love than to see it in action.
  - 2. There is no better teacher than example. We need to see sermons as well as hear them.
  - 3. This is the kind of love we read of in the Bible, i.e., love shown by one’s actions. (John 3:16; 14:15; 15:13)
- B. Hospitality lets others know you truly care about them.
  - 1. You do this by inviting them into your home, giving of yourself, your time, attention (talking about what concerns them), your provisions, etc.
  - 2. When someone knows you care, then you can perhaps study the Bible with them or at least talk about that area of spirituality they need to be growing in.
  - 3. Unfortunately some see the accumulation of Bible knowledge as an end to itself and as a result come across with an arrogant spirit. Yes, it does show. Then they can’t understand why people do not enjoy their company or want to study the Bible with them. ALL of us need to mature in the understanding that NOBODY CARES WHAT YOU KNOW UNTIL THEY KNOW THAT YOU CARE. (Except other fools who consider knowledge an end to itself.)

4. In I Timothy 1:5, Paul teaches, “The goal of our instruction is love...” We are taught to serve brethren. The objective of our learning is loving service toward God and our fellow man. Hospitality is one important way to express such love and service.

C. Hospitality is also of great help to the weak and discouraged.

1. It is not possible to discuss at the church building the things that are really pressing upon our mind, not like we can in someone’s home. Hospitality gives our troubled brother or sister the opportunity to talk and us the opportunity to “Bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2).

### III. IT WILL MAKE YOU A HAPPIER INDIVIDUAL

A. No man is happier than he who has learned to serve others.

1. Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)
2. By giving of ourselves we imitate Jesus (Phil. 2:3-5)

B. The problem with us sometimes is we get too wrapped up in ourselves and our own affairs.

1. “Nobody has problems like we do.”
2. “No one is busier than we are.”
3. “No one has so many demands upon them.”
4. And of course, “Nobody understands”.

None of these things, of course, are true. They are all rationalizations of pride and guilt.

C. Have someone in your home who will help you get your mind off yourself and the “Poor me” syndrome, and focus your attention on the needs of others. Doing this, you will be happier and receive other abundant blessings Jesus promises when we give of ourselves.

### IV. SHOWING HOSPITALITY WILL HELP THE CHURCH TO GROW AND BE STRENGTHENED

A. When such love abounds growth abounds.

1. The early Christians “Had favor with all the people.” (Acts 2:47)
2. As outsiders observed the unity and hospitable spirit of each Christian, their admiration and respect for Christians grew. They wanted to be a part of such a united group. It worked then, it will work today. Growth will result.

### CONCLUSION:

Come on brethren, let’s all get in the spirit of hospitality. “Y’all come on over” are words we need to be uttering a lot more today. Choose at least one day of the week to have someone over who you have never had before. Spread that good influence of yours around. You are the one who will profit the most. “Contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.” (Romans 12:13)

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### **News and Notes:**

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

*“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16*