

Reflect: **Assess yourself:**

What do I enjoy with hospitality? (When I'm the host: When I'm the guest)

Do I make time for hospitality?

What excuses (grumbling 1Peter4:9) do I make about hosting people?

How can I take away these excuses?

How have I fallen into the trap of Entertaining vs Hospitality?

What artefacts of faith does my life display?

Do I put myself first, or do I make others a priority?

How good am I at listening to others?

Do I convey Christ's love in my speech and actions?

Do I need to upskill myself in catering, conversation, evangelism, etc.?

How you act around meal times will be reflected in your hospitality. What am I doing well? What could I improve on?

Treat each meal as an opportunity to sit together and focus on one another.

In what ways do I witness Christ's love in my hospitality?

Activation: When are you going to invite someone over for a meal?

~INSPIRATION~

Psalm 23:5–6 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Matthew 25:34–36 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me,

The Art of Hospitality as Christian Witness

Hospitality = ?

Food, drink, meal, accomodation, security, care, relationship.

1Peter 4:7-11 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Hospitality is a mark of the Church.

1st It should be a regular accorance between members of the church.

2nd. It should be offered to others/strangers.

Q. When did you last offer hospitality?

As a Christian, you're inviting other people into the sacred space of your home. The guests fall under your 'house rules' and are under your care while in your house.



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Entertaining vs Hospitality (from 'Simple Hospitality' by Jane Jarrell)

Entertaining is an elaborate host-centered spectacle where visitors are invited to admire the hosts' fine things and accomplished skills.

Biblical hospitality, on the other hand, has nothing to do showing off and everything to do with putting others first. Hospitality focuses on serving, encouraging, and giving value to others. In Christ we have the ability to love the unlovable. Whether we realize it or not, hospitality permeates our spiritual DNA. Though we may not excel at entertaining, every believer can show hospitality to others. We just need to recognize the difference between true hospitality and its cheap, exaggerated imitation.

Biblical Hospitality (Holman Bible Dictionary)

To entertain or receive a stranger (sojourner) into one's home as an honored guest and to provide the guest with food, shelter, and protection. This was not merely an oriental custom or good manners but a sacred duty that everyone was expected to observe. Only the depraved would violate this obligation.

Hospitality probably grew out of the needs of nomadic life. Since public inns were rare, a traveler had to depend on the kindness of others and had a right to expect it. This practice was extended to every sojourner, even a runaway slave (Deut. 23:16-17) or one's archenemy.

The Pentateuch contains specific commands for the Israelites to love the strangers as themselves (Lev. 19:33-34; Deut. 10:18-19) and to look after their welfare (Deut. 24:17-22). The reason for practicing hospitality was that the Israelites themselves were once strangers in the land of Egypt.

Christian Witness: Caring for the everyday needs of others is a righteous and godly act: Matt 25:31-46 talks of those who offer hospitality (water, food, shelter) are to inherit the kingdom.

What can I do? **Set a pattern for hospitality**

Treat every meal as an opportunity to be a Christian Host. Practice makes perfect.

Pray: Grace. As you listen to the needs of others, pray for them at the

meal.

Care: Listen for needs, physical, spiritual, emotional.

Listen: discovers people's stories, learn what interests them, understand what their passions are. When you become a safe person, most people will eventually come to share their struggles, their doubts, and even their beliefs and unbeliefs about God with you.

REFLECTIVE LISTENING PHRASES (from book, God Space)

- **So, if I'm hearing you right** [briefly paraphrase the feelings and ideas you thought you heard].
- **Let me make sure I'm tracking with you. You're** [briefly paraphrase the feeling and ideas you thought you heard].
- **You're saying you feel** [briefly paraphrase the feeling] because [briefly paraphrase the thought]. **Is that right?**
- **Wow! You're really** [briefly paraphrase the feeling] **when you think about** [briefly paraphrase the thought].
- **What you really want me to grasp is that** [briefly paraphrase the feeling and ideas you thought you heard].
- **It's like** [use a word picture to convey the feelings or ideas you thought you heard]. **Does that capture it?**
- **So what ticks you off the most is** [briefly paraphrase the feelings and ideas you thought you heard].
- **So what excites you most is** [briefly paraphrase the feelings and ideas you thought you heard].
- **So the really big thing for you is** [briefly paraphrase the feelings and ideas you thought you heard].

