

**Week 11**

**Love Compels Us (5)**

**Hospitality**

“Practice Hospitality.” – Rom 12:13

There is something uniquely powerful about inviting people into our homes. It is as if the moment they cross the threshold they enter into a new relationship with us. No longer are they just acquaintances, they are guests, people who know where we live and have seen “inside” our private walls. To the ancients, sharing a meal was the sign of acceptance, an acknowledgement of being equals. Perhaps that is why an invitation from someone noble was (and still is) considered an honor. The invitation casts a glow of honor upon us. But, hospitality has a much deeper meaning than simple friendship and the exchange of honors.

Hospitality is the basic message of the gospel. The gospel message is depicted in scripture as God welcoming strangers to share and enjoy his banquet. God is the host, we are the guests and he invites us to share fellowship with him and the joy of a great feast. This image occurs repeatedly in the Old and New Testaments. (Ex 24; Is 25:6f; Matt 8:11; Lk 14:16f) i

When Jesus comes to earth, he is often seen eating with people to the extent that the Pharisees complain, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” God loves strangers and he invites them into his banquet. That is exactly what the Greek word that we translate as “hospitality” means--lover of strangers. This is the context of Paul’s instruction in Romans 12 where he says, “practice hospitality,” and the context of the need for church leaders to be people who are hospitable.

We need to revive the practice of hospitality, clearly distinguished from entertaining. Being hospitable does not mean showing off our house, our possessions, our rich food or fancy china. Hospitality is welcoming people into our lives, sharing the comfort of being called friends and the joy of God’s blessings.

**This Week**

- Make specific plans to invite someone into your home to share a common meal.
- Consider making this a regular practice, become known at work as someone who, “welcomes strangers.”

**Week 11**

**Mar 14-20**

<b>Sun</b>	<i>What specific action can you do this week related to your growth goals?</i>			<b>14</b>
Josh Dunn, Bonnie Dykstra				
<b>Mon</b>	Ex 26,27	Rom 8	Psa 51	<b>15</b>
<b>Tue</b>	Ex 28	Rom 9	Psa 52	<b>16</b>
<b>Wed</b>	Ex 29	Rom 10	Psa 53	<b>17</b>
St Patrick's Day				
<b>Thr</b>	Ex 30,31	Rom 11	Psa 54	<b>18</b>
<b>Fri</b>	Ex 32,33	Rom 12	Psa 55	<b>19</b>
<b>Sat</b>				<b>20</b>