

# Christian Hospitality

*“Hail guest! We ask not what you are. If friend, we greet you with hand and heart. If stranger, such no longer be. If foe, our love will conquer you.”*

**This old Welsh door-sign vividly expresses the warm attitude of true Christian hospitality.**

What are the ingredients of Christian hospitality?

Is Christian hospitality optional or is it commanded?

In Paul’s letter to the Church in Rome he specifically noted the attributes God expects to be part of a true Christian life.

**Romans 12:13, 15** [New King James] *“distributing to the needs of the saints, **given to hospitality.**”* ... *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”*

**Hospitality is not just having people over to your home for a party. Sometimes it entails weeping and real heartfelt concern, sharing another’s grief.**

**James 2:15-16** [New King James] *“If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?”*

Reading this should affect us like cold water thrown in our face when we are tempted to **not** help another person just because it would mean extra time and trouble for us.

**There are times when we need to buy or make clothing for people, or give some of our own; there are times when we need to provide food for those who are without.**

**Galatians 6:2** [New King James] *“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”*

**We are told to bear one another’s burdens. The practice of true hospitality is part of this, being an expression of the love that every true Christian has for all other human beings who are like us made in the “image” of the Creator God.**

**1 Timothy 3:2** [New King James] *“A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behaviour, **hospitable**, able to teach;”*

A bishop refers to all in leadership in the true Christian Church.

**1 Peter 4:9** [New King James] *“Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.”*

**This scripture broadens this admonition to all true Christians.**

This admonition comes in the context of love and prayers for other people, [verse 7 and 8] and the use of the talents that God has given us, [verse 10].

**Hebrews 13:1-2** [New King James] *“Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.”*

**This love we have for other Christians must be extended to those not yet called by God for their chance of salvation, [John 6:44].**

**Luke 14:12-14** [New King James] *“Then He also said to him who invited Him, ‘When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbours, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.’”*

**Jesus Christ makes a clear command that when we prepare special meals we are to include those who are, because of their physical condition, unable to return this hospitality.**

**Matthew 25:31-40** [New King James] *“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ **And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’”***

In these words of Jesus Christ we find an underlying emphasis about Christian hospitality that only God can add.

**This is true Christian hospitality, let us all make sure we are “doers of the Word of God and not just hearers!” [James 1:22-25]**