

Romans 12:13b

Let us look at the two key words

- A. Given is an interesting word with a couple of meanings. One of which is to zealously pursue or to pursue after.
 - B. Hospitality Paul is telling the church to pursue after hospitality.
 1. It is a hard pursuit, not a soft pursuit
 2. It is to be a desire to be hospitable.
- II. What is the concept of Hospitality in the Old Testament
- A. In the Old Testament, it was a physical place of rest (**Genesis 19:2**; **Genesis 28:11**¹)
 - B. In many cases, it was the dwelling of one in someone's home who was not a blood relative
 1. Israel in Egypt – **Genesis 47:4** (In **Deuteronomy 10:17-19**, they are called Sojourners which is form of the word dwell in **Genesis 47:4**)
 2. Moses' son's name was based on this Hebrew word, as Harold S. Stigers suggests, because it was in memory of his stay in Median – **Exodus 18:3**²
 3. Elijah and the Widow's son - **1 Kings 17:20**
- III. Now, let us shift focus to the New Testament
- A. During this time of writing, while there were Inn's it was not like today
 1. You could not just pull off the highway and grab a room at the Holiday Inn and no, they would not leave the light on for you :).
 2. The idea of Inn's were more of just guest rooms in an individual's home - this is the translation we find in **Mark 14:14**
 - B. Therefore, the concept of being Hospitable was to give several things to travelers
 1. It was to give them a safe place to sleep
 2. It would give them a place of comfort
 3. It would provide a place of nourishment
 4. It would provide a place of encouragement
 5. It would help further the Gospel – **3 John 1:8**³
 - i. Those who teach the gospel will be given a home base to operate out of
 - ii. It has been recorded in History, entire homes, because of the hospitality of the saints, have come to Jesus and salvation (Witnessing also can include relationships built by hospitality). They then would go back and establish home churches from which others will be saved. The church would grow this way.
- IV. Scriptural principles of hospitality: What should we conform to when being Hospitable?
- A. We must have a good attitude – **1 Peter 4:9**
 - B. This hospitality is including being open for the teachers of the truth– **3 John 1:5-7**
 1. This concept is different as we do not have “prophet's chambers” much anymore – **2 Kings 4:9-10**
 - i. During the time of Romans, when teachers would come through, they would need a place to stay.

1 Gen 28:11 NKJV - So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.

2 Exo 18:3 NKJV - with her two sons, of whom the name of one [was] Gershom (for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land")

3 3Jo 1:8 NKJV - We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.

- ii. As was said about a place of comfort, nourishment, encouragement, many believers would open their homes and allow these teachers to come and stay and dine with them.
- 2. The issue is that some did not teach the truth. Instead they substituted the truth for a lie
 - i. The concept of truth is very fleeting in our culture today (and sadly, even in our churches and yes, church of the Brethren as well)
 - ii. Truth is no longer Objective but Subjective and is based upon the individual instead of on God.
 - iii. We may be wondering, how do I know what is or is not true at the moment?
 - a. Pilate asked the same question - **John 18:38**
 - b. However, Jesus already had answered that – **John 17:17⁴**
 - 1) God’s Word is truth. It says what it means and means what it says.
 - 2) There are some different genre’s and some things are literal or figurative, but God’s Word is firm, established and foundational for our faith and life
 - 3) Any teacher who deviates from the Word of God and or diminishes its preeminence, is doing so as a false teacher!
 - iv. Therefore, we must heed what John wrote in **2 John 1:7-11** – DO NOT HELP THEM!!!
 - a. There are several ways to know false teachers from true teachers
 - b. I will just simply say this. If it does not match up to Scripture...And it adds even a little poison to the faith, they are false prophets!
- C. We should not desire to be repaid for our hospitality– **Luke 14:12-14**
- D. It also should be something that begins to drive us – **1 Corinthians 16:15** (In the NKJV = devoted; KJV = Addicted).
- E. This hospitality includes our words and deeds
 - 1. we need to think twice as hard about what we say and do and how that may be interpreted by others. - **Proverbs 25:11**
 - 2. True hospitality includes guarding our words – **James 1:26**
 - i. Therefore, we must, must, take account of our words and actions BEFORE we say or do. For the sake of other believers (**1 John 3:18⁵**)
 - ii. This is why we must follow – **Ephesians 4:31**
 - iii. We would do well to consider **Colossians 3:17**
 - iv. This is important because as we discussed last week, we are a family.
 - a. As a family we must be there for each other
 - b. We must uplift each other and uphold each other, not tear them down or break them by what we say or do – **Ephesians 4:29**
- V. What are the blessings for this hospitality
 - A. Jesus said that it is more blessed to give than receive – **Acts 20:35**
 - B. There have been those who have entertained angels unaware that they were doing - **Hebrews 13:2⁶** – The word for strangers is the same word as hospitality in our main text.
 - C. It helps to develop and grow this concept of church family and covenant relationship.

4 Jhn 17:17 NKJV - "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

5 1Jo 3:18 NKJV - My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

6 Heb 13:2 NKJV - Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so [doing] some have unwittingly entertained angels.