

“Gifts of Hospitality, Celibacy, and Intercession” (Part 13 of 16)

Gift of Hospitality:

- “Some folks make you feel at home. Others make you wish you were.” ¹ Arnold H. Glasow
- Jesus’ own hospitality is amazing considering the company He wants to keep for eternity!

John 14:1-6 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.² “In My Father’s house are many mansions; **if it were not so, I would have told you**. I go to prepare a place for you.³ “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.⁴ “And where I go you know, and the way you know.”⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

- **“Hospitable”**: **generous to guests** ²
 - (**filoxeniva**, (5381)), **love of strangers**, is used in Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:2, lit. ‘(be not forgetful of) hospitality.’ ³
- **An essential part of our continued growth at CCSM** – being generous to our guests.
 - Not just meeting newcomers – connecting with them.
 - Remember their names, connecting with them next week, reminding them of your concern and prayers for their particular situations.
- **Those who love to be hospitable**:
 - You never feel as though you have worn out your welcome
 - You are as comfortable with your guests as you would be with your own family
 - “We better go to bed so these people can go home” - **Gordonism**
- **A command to each one of us**:
1 Peter 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

Romans 12:9-13

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

13 distributing to the needs of the saints, **given to hospitality.**

¹10,000 sermon illustrations. 2000 (electronic ed.). Dallas: Biblical Studies Press.

²Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1995.

³Vine, W. E., *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell) 1981.

- **Given to hospitality** (φιλοξενίαν διώκοντες). Lit., *pursuing* hospitality. For a similar use of the verb compare 1 Cor. 14:1; 1 Thess. 5:15; Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 3:11. A necessary injunction when so many Christians were banished and persecuted. The verb indicates not only that hospitality is to be furnished when sought, but that Christians are to seek opportunities of exercising it. ⁴

- **Required in Elders:**

1 Timothy 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, **hospitable**, able to teach;

- **A Test of Christian character:**

1 Timothy 5:9-10 Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, *and not unless* she has been the wife of one man, 10 **well reported for good works**: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.

- **Can be a special blessing:**

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

Gift of Celibacy:

- *“The special ability to remain single and enjoy it; to be unmarried and not suffer undue sexual temptations.”* (C.Peter Wagner, *Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church To Grow*, pg 63)

1 Corinthians 7:1 Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: **It is good for a man not to touch a woman.**

1 Corinthians 7:7-9 For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.

8 But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am;

9 but **if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry**. For it is better to marry than to burn *with passion*.

Matthew 19:10-12 His disciples said to Him, “If such is the case of the man with *his* wife, it is better not to marry.”

11 But He said to them, “All cannot accept this saying, but only *those* to whom it has been given:

12 For there are eunuchs who were born thus from *their* mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who

Lit. Literally.

⁴Vincent, M. R. (2002). *Word studies in the New Testament* (Vol. 3, Page 1-160). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He who is able to accept *it*, let him accept *it*.”

- **Celibates:**

- Do not struggle with their gifting, their singleness – their struggle is often with those that cannot accept their gifting.
- Love being single for the Lord
- Do not respond to the temptations for lust.

Gift Of Intercession:

- *“The special ability to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis and see frequent and specific answers to their prayers.”* (C.Peter Wagner, *Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church To Grow*, pg 74)
- It is a **technical term for approaching a king**, and so for approaching God in intercession; it is rendered “prayer” in 1 Tim. 4:5; in the plural in 2:1 (i.e., **seeking the presence and hearing of God on behalf of others.**)

1 Timothy 2:1-3 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, **intercessions**, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

3 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

- **Interceders:**

- Always resort to prayer
- Always follow through with promises to pray
- Always find a way to attend prayer meetings
- Will often spend more than an hour in prayer daily.

- **Do you** love to pray?
- **Do you** work at the prayer until you know you have reached the throne of God?
- **Do you** expect answers when you pray?