

Hospitality Passages

Command to Hospitality

[1 Peter 4:8–10](#) [8](#) Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. [9](#) Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. [10](#) As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

[Romans 12:13](#) Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

[Matthew 25:31–31](#) [46](#) "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. [32](#) Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. [33](#) And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. [34](#) Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. [35](#) For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36](#) I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' [37](#) Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? [38](#) And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? [39](#) And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' [40](#) And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' [41](#) "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. [42](#) For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, [43](#) I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' [44](#) Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' [45](#) Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46](#) And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

[Hebrews 13:2](#) Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

[Galatians 6:10](#) So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

[Ephesians 4:28](#) Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

[Luke 14:12–14](#) [12](#) He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich

neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. [13](#) But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, [14](#) and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

Hospitality as Descriptor of Godliness or Faith

[Titus 1:8](#) but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.

[1 Timothy 3:2](#) Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

[Luke 7:44–46](#) [44](#) Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. [45](#) You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. [46](#) You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.

[Proverbs 14:21](#) Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.

[Proverbs 28:27](#) Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse.

[1 Timothy 5:10](#) and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work.

[Job 31:32](#) (the sojourner has not lodged in the street; I have opened my doors to the traveler),

[James 2:15–16](#) [15](#) If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, [16](#) and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

[Matthew 25:35](#) For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

[James 2:25](#) And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

[1 John 4:20](#) If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

[James 1:27](#) Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Lack of Hospitality is Mark of Godlessness

[3 John 10](#) So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.

[1 John 3:17](#) But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

[Luke 9:5](#) And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them."

[Luke 7:44-48](#) [44](#) Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. [45](#) You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. [46](#) You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. [47](#) Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." [48](#) And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

[Matthew 10:11-11](#) And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay [15](#) there until you depart. [12](#) As you enter the house, greet it. [13](#) And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. [14](#) And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. [15](#) Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

[Deuteronomy 23:3-4](#) [3](#) "No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the LORD. Even to the tenth generation, none of them may enter the assembly of the LORD forever, [4](#) because they did not meet you with bread and with water on the way, when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.

[1 John 4:7](#) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

[1 John 4:8](#) Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

God Loved/Adopted/Provided for You So Do the same

[1 John 3:16–18](#) [16](#) By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. [17](#) But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? [18](#) Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

[John 13:34–35](#) [34](#) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35](#) By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

[2 Corinthians 8:9–14](#) [9](#) For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. [10](#) And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. [11](#) So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. [12](#) For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. [13](#) For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness [14](#) your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.

[John 13:12–17](#) [12](#) When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? [13](#) You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. [14](#) If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. [15](#) For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. [16](#) Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. [17](#) If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

[Leviticus 19:33–34](#) [33](#) "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. [34](#) You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

[Philippians 2:5–8](#) [5](#) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [6](#) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7](#) but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. [8](#) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

[Exodus 22:21](#) "You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

[Deuteronomy 10:19](#) Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

[1 John 4:11](#) Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

[1 John 4:19](#) We love because he first loved us.

[1 John 4:21](#) And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

[Matthew 20:24–24](#) And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. [25](#) But [25](#) Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

Don't Show Hospitality to Some

[2 John 9–10](#) [9](#) Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. [10](#) If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting,

[Proverbs 1:15](#) my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths,

[Proverbs 22:24–24](#) Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, [25](#) [25](#) lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.

[Proverbs 13:20](#) Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

[Proverbs 4:14–15](#) Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. [15](#) Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on.

[Titus 3:10–11](#) [10](#) As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, [11](#) knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

[1 Corinthians 5:11](#) But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

[2 Timothy 3:5](#) having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

Limits on Hospitality Even to Christians

[2 Thessalonians 3:10](#) For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

[1 Timothy 5:14–16](#) So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. [15](#) For some have already strayed after Satan. [16](#) If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.

Hospitality For Spread of Gospel

[Acts 5:42](#) And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

[3 John 5–8](#) [5](#) Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, [6](#) who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. [7](#) For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. [8](#) Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

[Philemon 22](#) At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

[Romans 16:1–2](#) [1](#) I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, [2](#) that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.

[Acts 18:7](#) And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue.

[Luke 8:3](#) and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

[3 John 8](#) Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

[Acts 10:22–23](#) [22](#) And they said, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.” [23](#) So he invited them in to be his guests. The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him.

Examples of Hospitality

[Acts 16:15](#) And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

[Acts 21:8](#) On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.

[Acts 21:16](#) And some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us, bringing us to the house of Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we should lodge.

[Acts 2:44–45](#) [44](#) And all who believed were together and had all things in common. [45](#) And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

[Hebrews 13:16](#) Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

[2 Timothy 1:16](#) May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains,

[Genesis 18:1–5](#) [1](#) And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. [2](#) He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth [3](#) and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. [4](#) Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, [5](#) while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.”

[Genesis 19:1–4](#) [1](#) The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his

face to the earth [2](#) and said, "My lords, please turn aside to your servant's house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way." They said, "No; we will spend the night in the town square." [3](#) But he pressed them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house. And he made them a feast and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. [4](#) But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house.

[Judges 19:20–21](#) [20](#) And the old man said, "Peace be to you; I will care for all your wants. Only, do not spend the night in the square." [21](#) So he brought him into his house and gave the donkeys feed. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank.

God's Hospitality

[John 14:1–4](#) [1](#) "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. [2](#) In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? [3](#) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. [4](#) And you know the way to where I am going."

[Ephesians 1:5](#) he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

[Ephesians 2:19](#) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

[Ephesians 2:6–7](#) [6](#) and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, [7](#) so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

[Galatians 3:26](#) for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

[Galatians 4:4–6](#) [4](#) But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, [5](#) to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. [6](#) And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

[Romans 8:14–17](#) [14](#) For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. [15](#) For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" [16](#) The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, [17](#) and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

[Luke 11:11–13](#) [11](#) What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; [12](#) or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? [13](#) If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

[Romans 5:6–8](#) [6](#) For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. [7](#) For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— [8](#) but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

[Matthew 9:11](#) And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

[Mark 2:16](#) And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

[Luke 5:30](#) And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"