



The Hospitality Commands: Building Loving Christian Community: Building Bridges to Friends and Neighbors

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Hospitality may well be the best means we have to promote close, brotherly love--especially in churches where people don't know each other beyond Sunday-morning-only greetings.

Hospitality is also an effective tool for evangelism. Showing Christ's love to others in a home environment may be the only means Christians have to reach their neighbors for Christ.

Ideal for church leaders, The Hospitality Commands will also make a difference among the members of your congregation. It expounds every Scripture on the subject, explores all the biblical examples, and lists the biblical fruits of Christian hospitality. Also included are study questions and assignments for group discussion, making it an excellent resource for small groups and adult Sunday school classes.

The Hospitality Commands: Building Loving Christian Community: Building Bridges to Friends and Neighbors Details

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Allison says

This was a really good pamphlet on the importance of Christian hospitality.

Kathryn Judson says

A quick read - I finished it in part of an afternoon - about an often-overlooked set of commands in the Bible on pursuing hospitality on the one hand, and withholding it (to the false teacher, and to the unrepentant brother) on the other. It draws on Scripture, history, and contemporary examples. It has end notes, and study questions.

Of the churches I've attended, only one weaves hospitality into everyday life, making sure that its members and church leaders regularly open their homes to visitors; it makes for a profound difference in how the church operates, and for the better. For churches or families that have fallen down on this, or who have never tried it, this book has some helpful ideas for beginners. It also addresses the differences between Christian hospitality done out of brotherly love, and worldly notions of hospitality.

Good food for thought - with plans for action.

Jeffrey R Jenneman says

Reaching my world

This is how to get the great comission completed, reach out to the people around you.
Very biblical view, well written.

Priscilla says

excellent, short, informative, factual. includes practical suggestions and a study guide for discussion

Sarah says

This concise book pretty much covers the bases of the biblical commands to practice hospitality and encouragement to consider how we as individuals and churches can implement hospitality. There is a chapter with practical tips and suggestions, and there is a study guide at the end for use in groups. I just read this

along with other hospitality books and did not take time to do a deep dive; when I do stop and take more time to consider creative ways of doing hospitality, I will definitely consult this little book again!

Terra says

wonderful, short read on practicing hospitality, full of scripture pointing to our duty to do so. urging without condemning. feels like listening to a good sermon.

Jodi says

All churches need to read this.

Jenny Preston says

Short but important

This book offers a clear and concise explanation of Biblical hospitality. It walks through some of the history of hospitality in the early church and the commands to be hospitable we can find in scripture. The most important parts for me were 1) Contrasting hospitality and entertaining and 2) Offering practical advice to become more hospitable. There are three discussion lessons in the back for if you want to study the book with a group (or by yourself). I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to grow in loving their brothers and sisters in Christ but aren't sure how that should look. Very realistic!

Kyle says

A helpful collection of the NT Hospitality commands with some brief reflection and application.

John says

In "The Hospitality Commands," Alexander Strauch demonstrates that, for Christians, hospitality is not an option. It's what we're commanded to do.

This little book was convicting for me, because I'm not only bad at extending hospitality, I'm not even very good at receiving hospitality. In fact, one of the things that I think is missing from this book is a chapter of instruction on how to accept hospitality. The other element that's largely missing is personality. Stauch mentions that he and his family had been opening their home to others on Sundays for 20 years. Surely, during that time there were occasions when things didn't go very well, moments that seemed disastrous at the time and funny later. There must also have been times that were particularly memorable and rewarding.

Some anecdotal material would have provided leaven to a very substantive book.

But "The Hospitality Commands" is well-grounded in Scripture and extremely practical. Possibly the most valuable chapter is the final chapter, which is simply a list of 16 tips on practicing hospitality.

Mystie Winckler says

This is a very brief book, much more a launching pad than a discussion. Strauch proves from Scripture that hospitality -- opening up one's house primarily to brothers and sisters in Christ, but also to the needy and one's neighbors -- is an essential to the Christian life and community. It is not a nice thing for some people, but it is a requirement for everyone.

The most interesting point he made, in my mind, was that each of the commands to pursue hospitality in the New Testament directly follow commands to love the saints. That is, hospitality is the way we are to love one another. We aren't simply to feel a certain way toward fellow believers, we are to put it into practice and we are to make one another a part of our lives.

The back of the book lists discussion questions to explore the topic further in a group study setting. With only 5 short chapters and many potential avenues for discussion (rather than just "comprehension questions"), this would make a great small group study.

Wallace says

An excellent little book, which is as straight and direct as its author, Alexander Strauch!

Hospitality has had a significant presence in my life from my mid-teens, when my paternal grand-parents, who had meagre possessions, showed hospitality almost on a daily basis, to neighbours and friends. As a young man I always enjoyed those times, learning about people, listening to stories of the past and present and hopes for the future! So when I got my own home (almost 30 years ago now!) I knew that I also wanted to show hospitality to as many as I could! I have, and it has been so, so rewarding!

Alexander's booklet presents the Biblical basis for opening our homes to others, and is well worth reading, and considering for action!

The list of Distinctives of Christian Hospitality on pages 47 and 48 are well worth repeating here:

1. Christian hospitality is one of the birthmarks of early Christianity.
2. Christian hospitality is a virtue.
3. God requires every Christian to pursue Christian hospitality. Hospitality is His command, not an option (Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:1,2).
4. Christian hospitality is a biblical requirement for church shepherds (1 Timothy 3:2)
5. Christian hospitality is a biblical requirement for church-supported widows (1 Timothy 5:10)
6. Christian hospitality is a practical expression of brotherly and sisterly Christian love (Hebrews 13: 1,2)
7. Christian hospitality fans the flames of Christian love in extraordinary ways.
8. Every Christian should eagerly pursue Christian hospitality (Romans 12:13)
9. Christians are to practice hospitality with a glad heart (1 Peter 4:9)
10. Christian hospitality is an effective medium for sharing the gospel message with relatives, friends, and neighbours (Acts 5:42; 20:20; Luke 5:29).
11. Christian hospitality helps to advance the gospel by providing an indispensable service for the Lord's

messengers (Luke 10:7,8; 3 John 5-8).

12. Christian hospitality seeks to minister to the poor, the uninvited, and the needy of society (Luke 14:12-14).

13. Christian hospitality is a practical vehicle for exercising one's spiritual gifts (1 Peter 4:9-10).

14. Christian hospitality leads to unexpected rewards and blessings (Hebrews 13:2).

A 5 star read, and wholeheartedly recommended to all!

Jeremiah Whiteman says

I enjoyed the book as it was very informative, simple, and practical. Alexander did a great job of keeping the material understandable, and even gave a historical background for Christian hospitality within the first three centuries. He is concise, to the point, and candidly does away with excuses we will often make to not practice hospitality. My only critique of the book is how he wrote so sharply with generalizations. His words almost came off aggressive as if he is fighting with the reader, but not in a condemning or condescending way. Overall, I think this book is good and offers a lot to modern Christianity with its simplicity and urgency to be hospitable. SDG.

Ceira says

If we love our Christian brothers and sisters, we will want to invite them into our homes. We will want them to fill our homes. The presence of Christian brothers and sisters in our homes is a foretaste of our glorious, heavenly dwelling place that will be filled with people, and angels, and the perfect host--our Lord Jesus Christ.

A quick overview of the meaning and necessity of hospitality, complete with book list for future reading. :D

Lea Lea says

"Hospitality fleshes out love in a uniquely personal and sacrificial way. Through the ministry of hospitality, we share our most prized possessions. We share our family, home, finances, food, privacy, and time. Indeed we share our very lives so hospitality is always costly."

"Hospitality, therefore, is a concrete, down -to-earth test of our fervent love for God and His people. Love can be an abstract indistinct idea; hospitality is specific and tangible. We seldom complain about loving others too much, but we do complain about the inconveniences of hospitality. Hospitality is love in action. Hospitality is the flesh and muscle on the bones of love. Through caring acts of hospitality, the reality of our love is tested."
