**Friend Request – the Art of Real Friendships**

**Hospitality for Busy Lives[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**I. The Meaning of Hospitality**

philozenos…

A. Hospitality flows out of a loving heart

**John 13:35** - *By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*

**1 John 5:1** - *Whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.*

**1 John 4:20** - *If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.*

B. Extends to strangers and those who cannot reciprocate

**Exodus 23:9** - *You shall not oppress a stranger, since you yourselves know the feelings of a stranger, for you also were strangers in the land of Egypt.*

**Leviticus 19:10** - *Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am the Lord your God.*

**Luke 14:12-14** - *And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”*

hospitality – fondness and affection for strangers

C. Must be passionately pursued

“practicing hospitality”

**Revelation 12:13** - *And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.*

**II. The Foundation of Hospitality**

**Romans 12:1** - *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

“Christianity is not primarily a human, historical, or social event. It is primarily a theological event. Therefore, to view it only in human dimensions—such as trying to effect body life in the church solely on the basis of group dynamics and organizational skills, omitting the theological dimension—is to view it incorrectly, and to invite less than satisfactory results.” (Boa, K., & Kruidenier, W. (2000). Vol. 6: Romans. Holman New Testament Commentary; Holman Reference (369). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.)

A. Because you have been impacted by the mercy of God

**Romans 12:1** - *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God…*

B. You want to present your redeemed body to Him

**Romans 12:1** - *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God…*

**Romans 10:9-10** - *that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*

C. You are adopting a Biblical view of self

**Romans 12:3** - *For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.*

D. Because you want to be devoted to the right things

**Romans 12:10-11** - *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;*

1. brotherly love

2. giving preference

3. not apathetic

4. with zeal

5. out of a heart that loves to serve Christ

**III. The Practice of Hospitality**

A. Be sure you’ve allowed God to show hospitality to you.

B. Evaluate your habits in this area in the past. Thank God for what is right and ask forgiveness for what is wrong.

C. Prayerfully consider ways you can use your current activities to follow this command.

D. Start slowly.

E. Include others who have more experience in hospitality than you.

F. Ask the Lord to help you use biblical hospitality as a means to develop a new friendship this year.

1. Dr Steve Viars [↑](#footnote-ref-1)