



A STRANGER KIND OF LOVE

July 11, 2021
Pastor Bill Heydorn

MESSAGE NOTES

Romans 12:9 – 13

1 Peter 4:9

Deuteronomy 10:17 – 19

Hebrews 13:1 – 2

Matthew 25:35 – 46



DISCUSSION

On Sunday, we talked about hospitality as a central theme in the Bible and something that all Christians are encouraged to practice. Hospitality in Greek is *philoxenia*, literally “stranger-love,” clearly implying that it is to be practiced not only with family and friends, but with those we do not know. It involves not only welcoming people into our homes, but our hearts as well. To do so, we need to make room in our lives and stop being ashamed of the imperfections of who we are (or where we live). When we do this, we paint a picture of a hospitable God.

- What spoke most to you from the message on Sunday? Why?
- Describe an experience you have had of outstanding hospitality, whether in someone’s home or another environment. How did you feel, and what was it that made this a particularly hospitable experience?
- Tell of a time when you have not been welcomed or felt like you did not belong. Where were you? What did you feel and why? Who contributed to your experience?
- Think about stories of Jesus welcoming people. How did He treat those who were considered outsiders and outcasts? How did those in power react to Him? What was radical about Jesus’ behavior?
- Read Hebrews 13:1 – 2. The word translated “loving each other as brothers and sisters” is *Philadelphia*, brotherly-love. The word translated “to show hospitality to strangers” is *philoxenia*, stranger-love.
- Why are both important for Christians to practice?
- How can our practice of hospitality help people understand God better?

Hospitality is not only an action, but also an attitude. We can welcome people into our homes and also into our hearts.

- Which comes more easily to you?
- What stops you from showing hospitality in each area?
- What practical steps could you take to grow in hospitality as an action and an attitude?

A challenge: Walk through your neighborhood or downtown area of where you live and note the people of different races, cultures, ages, backgrounds, and economic groups. List the groups of strangers that are currently not being welcomed. Identify some of the barriers to their inclusion, and begin thinking of practical ways to show better hospitality.