PURSUING HOSPITALITY

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- What Is Hospitality?
 - Comes from 2 words. Love (philo) and stranger (xenia). Lit. Love of strangers.
 - "The generous and gracious treatment of guest."
 - Gen. 18:2-8; Lev. 19:33-34; 25:35; Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:2

- Rooted in Love:
 - Commands for hospitality are almost always found in the context of love. Rom. 12:9-10, 13; 1 Pet. 4:8-9; Heb. 13:1-2
 - This love is rooted in God and Christ' love. I Jn. 4:19; Rom. 5:8
 - This love is then reflected in our relationships to each other.
 Gal. 2:20; Jn. 13:34-35; I Cor. 13; I Pet. 1:22

- The New Testament Norm:
 - The first Christians showed themselves to be a close family:
 - Greeted each other like family (Rom. 16:16)
 - Shared their possessions (Acts 2:44-45; Rom. 12:13)

The New Testament Norm:

- Opened their homes for the church (Rom. 16:5)
- Ate together (Acts 2:46)
- Practiced hospitality (Acts 16:15;21:8)

- Pursuing Hospitality:
 - A few practical applications/ suggestions.
 - I. I need to be open to hospitality.
 - 2. Plan to be hospitable.
 - 3. Make a list of those who would be encouraged by your offer of hospitality.
 - 4. Be interested in people's lives.