

A Study About Elders

(Part 9)

I. Introduction:

A. If a brother contacted you and wanted to stay with you, how would you feel (**Philemon 1:20-22**)?

1. Not just an elder, but all of us should be servants of one another (**John 13:3-17** and **Galatians 5:13-14**)
2. There is a mindset to all of this (**Hebrews 13:3**).
3. Our Lord's perspective is that, when you do or don't do right things to His people you are doing it to Him (**Matthew 25:31-40** and **Acts 9:1-5**).

B. Hospitality is tied to brotherly love [will see that in this lesson] which is shown in our service to one another (**Hebrews 6:10-11**).

1. If you say you love your brethren, does your actions indicate such (**James 2:14-17** and **I John 3:11-18**)?
2. We must learn and grow in brotherly love (**II Peter 1:3-7**).
3. You cannot love the Lord without loving your brethren (**I John 4:20-21**).

II. Body: Given To / A Lover Of, Hospitality (**I Timothy 3:2** and **Titus 1:8**).

A. "Given to hospitality" or "a lover of hospitality" [same Greek word] means: "fond of guests, i.e. hospitable: — given to (lover of, use) hospitality" (Strong's # 5382).

1. Expected of all saints (**I Peter 4:8-11**).
2. Shown in various examples (**Genesis 18:1-8**, **Acts 10:5-6**, **Acts 16:14-15**, **Acts 28:1-10**, etc.).
3. Early teachers depended on the hospitality of others (**Luke 10:1-12**).

B. Not only of brethren you know well (**I Timothy 5:9-10** and **Hebrew 13:1-2**).

1. Willing to host brethren that may come to us from outside the congregation (**Romans 16:23** and **III John 1:1-8**).
2. In talking about strangers, that doesn't mean you know nothing about them (**Romans 16:1-2**).
3. The fact is, we do need to know some things about those proclaiming to be brethren before we are hospitable (**II John 1:6-11**).

C. Fond of being hospitable without expecting something in return (**Luke 14:12-14**).

1. In this, one must have a mindset that "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (**Acts 20:35**).
2. An elder, and all of us, need to be more about others than ourselves (**Romans 15:1-3**, **I Corinthians 10:33**, **Galatians 6:9-10**, **Ephesians 4:28**, and **Philippians 2:19-30**).

III. Conclusion: **Romans 12:9-16**