

Why We Share A Meal Together Each Lord's Day

Romans 12:1-13

September 6, 2015

Romans 12:1-13 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Big idea: Our shared meal each Sunday is an opportunity to love one another and is a springboard for hospitality.

Outline

- 1. Transformed Minds (1-3)**
- 2. Various Gifts (4-8)**
- 3. Overflowing love (9-11)**
- 4. Practical Hospitality (12-13)**

“Only by studying the living, breathing, life-changing Word of God can we find hope for overcoming fear, excuses, and apathy regarding hospitality. Only the power of the Word and the Spirit can convince us that hospitality is to be an essential part of healthy Christian living and can move us to act.” Alexander Strauch

1. Transformed Minds (vv.1-3)

vv. 1-3 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- True Christian hospitality begins with a mind transformed by the Holy Spirit.

2. Various Gifts (vv. 4-8)

4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

- Why do we have a shared meal weekly?
 1. For fellowship
 2. For encouragement
 3. To serve one another.
 4. To allow many gifts to be used.
 5. To allow for safe, relaxing fun together.
 6. To give some parents a break
 7. To slow down and rest

The seeds of hospitality are sown in the shared meal each week.

3. Overflowing love (vv. 9-11)

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

- The great command to love one another is in the context of serving one another.
- Serving one another takes work, effort and intentionality.

4. Practical Hospitality (12-13)

12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

- Rejoice in hope
- Be patient in tribulation
- Be constant in prayer
- Contribute to the needs of the saints
- Seek to show hospitality

1 Peter 4:7-11 - The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Benefits of hospitality

- Working together as a family
- Meeting new, or ones you know less, families and individuals
- Mutual up-building and encouragement
- You can't do this at church. Needs extra effort and a relaxed atmosphere.

Barriers to hospitality

- Season of life
- Finances
- Fear or embarrassment of the home
- Unwilling to put forth the effort. Takes work and planning.
- I want to do something else more than this.
- No room – house is too small

Final Thoughts

- Our weekly shared meal is an occasion to get to know families and individuals in a deeper way.
- Take a “A full drink” rather than a sip – Church service, shared meal, hospitality
- Your spiritual gifts can be exercised within the context of hospitality, beginning at the shared meal and will extending to your home.

Reminder/Vision Sermons

- We desire to be a gospel centered church.
- We endeavor to bring the gospel of truth to a needy world.
- And most of all that God would be glorified in everything we do.

As Peter says in 1 Peter 4:11 - we do these things
“in order that in everything God may be glorified.”

