

VII. Practice the art of Hospitality

Romans 12:13

1 Peter 4:9

A. Some Introductory Notes

It is not thought, of course, that any are called to being inhospitable. But this ability, as with some others, may become an apparent gift in some and only a latent or attempted skill in others. In other words, as you are hospitable it may become obvious that you have a "gift" of special proportions in that area. But all have the ability to share in this work to the same extent that all can teach, etc.

That this is one of the "lesser" gifts there can be no question. Like encouragement, everyone appreciates it but many find it hard to dispense. I think that personality enters very much into the total picture but should not become an excuse for not doing what obviously will further the cause of the Lord and is so much in keeping with the Lord's own dealings with us. More attention is being paid to it today in this age of "friendship evangelism" and our friend Alex Strauch has a very nice little book on the subject of using your home for Christ. (Lewis and Ward publishers). But since it may be an exercise that causes us some little inconvenience, it is very important that we consider it as much as we can. The challenge is to practice the art of being hospitable for the glory of God.

B. Discussion:

Our rather familiar questions (by this time) are before us and we may use them as stepping stones in completing our study.

1. Hospitality: what is it?

In the nature of our texts (cited above) it is the extension of kindness to those outside our immediate circle. We cannot limit the parameters so efficiently but in general that is the case. We reach out to those beyond the immediate group and