

# Smells From The Home

## Hospitality & Ministry

*(Rom 12:10, 13 NKJV) Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another... distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.*

- ☺ *Love is closely associated with sweet smelling fragrances (as pictured in the Song of Songs) As we love, we become spiritually fragrant*
- ☺ *Agape love is made up of at least 15 different aspects, as mentioned in 1Corinthians 13*
- ☺ *Agape love is not a thing to be used for our own ends.*
- ☺ *Agape love relates to the home. The husband and father is the one responsible for setting the tone of agape love in the family.*
- ☺ *The nucleus of this agape love within the family springs out of the relationship between the husband and his wife.*
- ☺ *Together, a Christian family shines like a lighthouse of love within a community of darkness*

## “Entertaining Strangers”

*Throughout the Mediterranean world, hospitality toward strangers was recognised as a sacred duty. Among the Greeks hospitality was a decisive mark of culture. The civilized were those who love strangers and fear the gods (Homer Od. VIII. 576; ix. 175). Zeus himself was the Friend of Strangers (2Macc. 6:2). In Egypt the practice of hospitality assured a favourable existence in the next world. For the Romans entertaining strangers was considered a sacred obligation.*

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- Entertaining strangers began as a way of welcoming nomadic businessmen.
- It was customary for the village or town to take care of strangers by giving them food and lodging, even if the traveller arrived late in the town (Lk. 11:5f).
- No expense was extreme when entertaining strangers (travellers). Luxurious banquets were frequently prepared for the traveller who was treated as an important guest. Note Abraham's comment about his generous provision by describing it as a morsel of bread (Gen. 18:5).
- Eventually villages began the practice of maintaining a guest room for visitors. The expense was shared by the entire village. Note Mk. 14:14.

## Entertain Strangers!



The Old Testament commanded that strangers be entertained (Lev. 19:33f.; Dt. 10:13f.; 24:17, 19)



This was because Israel were strangers in the land of Egypt (Ex. 22:21; 23:9; Dt. 10:19)



Abraham entertained strangers as a matter of courtesy (Gen. 18:2f). Reuel was amazed his daughters did not extend hospitality toward the stranger who assisted them water their flocks (Ex. 2:20).



Being a host often meant willing sacrifice. Elijah was offered the last bit of food left in the house by the widow of Zarephath (1Kgs 17:10f).

## What Jesus Taught



Jesus frequently received hospitality (Mtt. 13:1, 36; Mk. 1:29f; 7:24; 9:33; 11:11; 14:3; Lk. 7:36f; 8:3; 10:38f; 14:1f, 12f; 19:5; Jn 4:40; 12:1f)



Jesus expected hospitality (Lk. 9:51f)



He referred to it as a commonly established custom by His reference to it within certain parables (Lk. 11:5f; 14:12f)



He sent out the 12 and the 70 on the assumption that they would be shown hospitality (Mk. 6:8-11; Lk. 10:1-12)



Jesus said that the hospitality shown toward His servants was actually hospitality shown toward Him, and would be greatly rewarded (Mtt. 10:40; 25:43; Jn. 13:20)

Next lesson: *Love from the Home: Hospitality and Ministry.*