

## A Christian's Social Duties

"Let brotherly love continue.

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares", Hebrews 13:1-2.

In the two verses above, the writer of Hebrews manages to nominate the three major aspects of our Lord's teaching, on how He desires us to live with those who do not know Him personally.

1. Brotherly Love.
2. Hospitality.
3. How we present ourselves to strangers.

Friend, look at those three aspects again,

4. Brotherly Love.
5. Hospitality.
6. How we present ourselves to strangers,

and then ask yourself "Will people believe me when I say 'Jesus in me loves you, and died for you'". Especially after they have seen how Christians treat each other!

7. Brotherly Love.

Both Jesus in His earthly teaching, and the Holy Spirit through those He inspired to write letters to various communities, were emphatic that 'brotherly love' was a spiritual requirement, not a physical requirement, especially to those who had a need.

So far as Jesus was concerned it was a commandment that would be seen as a basic commandment of membership in the New Church Age.

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another”, John 13:34.

It was a definitive command, “These things I command you, that ye love one another”, John 15:17.

It is also a test as to whether we have been truly reborn, “He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now”. 1 John 2:9.

## 2. Hospitality.

There are many on this planet who regard themselves as the only ‘people who are good enough, and perfect enough to enter through Heaven’s Gates.

They base their assumption on one of two beliefs,

‘They attend church every Christmas Eve because that was when the baby was born, and Easter because that was when the man Jesus was nailed to a cross, (their words, not mine)’,

‘They were baptised into the church as a baby; they got married in a church; they will be buried by the church when they die!’

Our hospitality needs to match the hospitality of Abraham.

Abraham was sat in the doorway of his tent when three men arrived at the door.

Abraham fetched water to wash their feet. He then washed their feet.

Abraham’s hospitality to his visitors was that of the most menial servants position.

It was only then that Abraham sought his wife to bake three cakes, and a servant to get a tender calf for a feast.

Abraham did not join them but stood by and ministered to them as their needs dictated, Genesis 18:1-8.

He did not call his servants to do his ministry whilst he presented himself to his guests.

### 3. How we present ourselves to strangers.

If we consider the 'Woman at the well', John 4:1-42, one of the first things we would notice was that it is only recorded in John's Gospel, otherwise known as the 'Priestly Gospel' or the 'Servant Gospel'.

Jesus did not ask for her name and address before He spoke to her, He spoke as a person with a need to a person who was able to meet His need - a drink of water!

For the woman, as a Samaritan, and living with the sixth man in her life, she was a despised woman.

For Jesus, she was a child of God who had many problems that needed fixing.

Jesus had approached her without a sign of malice in His Voice. She approached the men of the town urging them to come and meet the man she had just met

The men of the town, hearing what Jesus had to say, beseeched Him to stay for a further two days.

Thus the answer to 'How we present ourselves to strangers' has got to be openly, AND OF ONE FAMILY,

"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour", John 12:26.