

Marks of a Christian – Part 4

Romans 12:13

a. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

- a. Contribute (κοινωνοῦντες *koinōnountes*) - to have in common, share, to associate one's self with by sympathy and assistance, to communicate with in the way of aid and relief.
- b. needs (χρείαις *chreiais*) – necessities.
 - i. Acts 2:44-45 - 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common (*koinos*). 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.
 - ii. 1 John 3:17 - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need (*chreia*), yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?
 - iii. Returning to 12:9 (Let love be genuine.), we can see love at the root of all of these characteristics of a true Christian.
- c. hospitality (φιλοξενίαν *philoxenian*) - kindness to strangers.
 - i. A combination of two words *phileo* (love) and *xenos* (stranger).
 - ii. Showing hospitality to strangers is bound up in the word, but not so as to excluding showing hospitality to brother and sisters.
 - iii. We use “**stranger danger**” to caution and protect our children from evil. My thought is do not throw caution to the wind when you host strangers in your home, but neither let it dissuade you from practicing hospitality.
 - iv. Abraham showed hospitality to strangers, and was blessed.
 - v. In our times, it is usually the lady of the house who extends hospitality, and woe to the man who extends hospitality without consulting his wife. But there are ways to get it done.
 - vi. It is true that in the 1st century there were no Holiday Inns or Motel 6s, no McDonalds or Whataburgers. Hospitality today will be different. Meeting people, getting to know people, often in the setting of a meal, is still in vogue.