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Melissa Kruger says it well:

At the heart of biblical hospitality is a humble willingness to serve others. It is not intended to show off what we have, but to demonstrate whom we follow.

So while a good meal and an IKEA dining table may help you to be hospitable, these things are not what hospitality is about. It's possible to be sitting at a fancy table with delicious food while feeling exceedingly unwanted by the host! Hospitality is about the heart. It's about serving people. The focus is not on the meal, or the space, the focus is on loving people and inviting them into your home, ultimately into your life.

60 Minutes Editorial - not Baptist!

There is a 60 Minutes editorial going to air tonight about domestic violence at an independent Illawarra based church that identifies as Baptist. Please note, **THIS CHURCH IS NOT AFFILIATED** with the Baptist Association of NSW and ACT. The association has contacted 60 Minutes to have this communicated within the editorial.

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Communique

23 July 2017



Demi and Teagan

Contact Us...

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Welcome

If you are looking for a church, a regular attender or visiting, we would like to extend a huge, warm welcome. We are a church for the community, and we enjoy a range of social activities during the week, starting with tea/coffee on the lawn after church. We would love you to remain after the service to enjoy refreshments with us.

Family Camp 20-22 October 2017



Dawn will have a table at the back of the church so you can view the cabin and dormitory accommodation options and register for this year's Family Camp. The cabins are booking out fast, on a first in first served basis. As the only remaining cabin has two bedrooms, we are asking families to choose someone to share with, unless your family needs both rooms. There is a dorm

with six good sized bedrooms which share a common bathroom. Each of these rooms could accommodate a family. We expect that most of the youth will be together in a separate dormitory.

We see Family Camp as a great time to come together, socialize, have fun, be spiritually enriched and get to know each other better in a great environment.

Girls Group - 26 July

The monthly girls group is on this Wednesday and Deb is excited to host another opportunity for girls of all ages to get together to share a meal together, followed by a DVD that will either encourage, inspire or challenge you. All girls are welcome and RSVP's are not necessary but if you can let Deb know for catering purposes, that would be appreciated. Why not bring a friend along?



Ten Misconceptions about practicing Hospitality

Whenever hospitality is mentioned in the New Testament, it is assumed as a staple part of the Christian life. However, lots of people don't show hospitality to others. I have heard a wide variety of reasons why people can't or won't be hospitable, and I think there are many misconceptions out there:

- I don't have the right place.
- I don't know how to cook or bake.
- Entertaining is too stressful.
- My house is too messy.
- I can't possibly have XYZ over.
- It's just not my gift.
- I live too far/it's too inconvenient for people to come to me.
- I'm not in the right season of life.
- I can't afford to feed people.
- I just don't have time at the moment.

These are all misconceptions—rather than excuses—because they stem from a misunderstanding of what biblical hospitality is. There is an underlying assumption here that hospitality involves mouth-watering three-course home-cooked meals served around a beautifully laid dining table in a pristine living room decorated to look like the latest IKEA catalogue. But when the Bible describes true hospitality, it makes no mention of appetizers or cake forks. The word used in Greek is *philoxenos*, which translates to “loving the stranger”. It's not about cooking, or entertaining. First and foremost, hospitality is about showing love to others.

Hospitality is the result of a life transformed by Christ. Both in Romans 12 and 1 Peter 4, hospitality is mentioned as a mark of the Christian life. A practical result of being saved by Jesus' death and resurrection is that you love everyone, including strangers. This is because our desire to show true hospitality to others stems from understanding the hospitality that Jesus has shown us. He is the greatest example of true hospitality. For when we were enemies and strangers to him, he invited us into his Father's house and prepared a room for us. Jesus did more than just serve us a meal; he loved us enough to serve us with his entire life. And as people who have been served by the greatest of kings, how can we do anything else but serve others?

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