

Hospitality Ideas

June 2013

Hospitality is defined in Webster's dictionary as "*the art, practice or quality of receiving and entertaining guests or strangers in a friendly way.*" Spontaneous or well-planned!!



Hospitality is not what we have; it is who we are.

No matter where we meet - in a home, social room of our church, Sunday school room, local café, shut-in's home, retirement home... we greet in a friendly way - who we are!



If practicing **hospitality** is new to you, prepare yourself to face the fear of new situations. You might be stepping out of your "comfort zone." The what ifs will continually come to your mind - remember, ***it is not what we have, but who we are!!***



So, let's give those new to **hospitality** a few hints:

** Hospitality has nothing to do with the size of your home. Some of my most memorable times were made in a very small home with mismatched kitchen tile that was a little on the wild side!*

** Keep the serving food simple - like cheese cubes, crackers, mixed fruit, cookies and drink (all store bought). Maybe you could even have a picnic from KFC!*

** Plastic ware, paper napkins and cups are not offensive!*



** Don't become too fussy about what you are serving, etc. Have a friend to help you for the day. You concentrate on making your guests feel welcomed.*

** If you are uncomfortable with making "polite conversation" with your guests, invite someone to your home that can specifically help you mingle.*

I so enjoyed our trip to Williamsburg, Virginia to see our colonial way of life. In those days, the pineapple was the highest form of **hospitality** for guests. It was put in the center of the table for company and often used as dessert. Pineapple is found in and on everything at Williamsburg... this is what makes it memorable.



So, I challenge you to find your "pineapple" in West Virginia!! Greet them wearing a wild apron, or an apron that was your mother's or grandmothers; with one daisy for each gal attending; a centerpiece that is your family favorite; a copy of your favorite dessert recipe... something that makes their visit memorable!



1 Peter 4:8-10

*Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins. Offer **hospitality** to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in various forms.*