

Talk to Strangers

The Worshipping Church Part 9

Hebrews 13:1-2 2-26-2012

Summary: Hebrews 12 concludes the section on worship like I concluded our series on worship last week - leaving us in the heavenly choir and calling us to acceptable worship. But that is followed immediately by the practical exhortations about love in ch.13, lest we imagine the vertical somehow exempts us from the horizontal.

Introduction: Love is Essential to Worship.....

Brother Love is Assumed.....

Evidence of Salvation.....

This Was a (Brother)-Loving Church.....

Stranger-Love Commanded.....

Agape is Strong in Brother-Love and Weak in Stranger-Love.....

Why Love Strangers? Because they Aren't Strangers to God.....

Mainly Believers.....

Like Your Child Entering a New Class.....

How to Increase Your Stranger-Love.....

Jesus Welcomed Strangers.....

Consider Who the Person Might Be.....

Compassion.....

Conclusion: The Stranger is Jesus.....

Hebrews 13:1 Keep on loving each other as brothers. 2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have received angels without knowing it.

Introduction: Love is Essential to Worship

Last Sunday I gave what I thought was the conclusion to our series on corporate worship. But God's plans and my plans do not always match. My desire was to end on a really high note - a whole sermon just on the spectacular, breathtaking glory of Christ. That is what the writer of Hebrews did when he talked about worship in Hebrews 12. He described the awesome wonders of God's visit on Mt. Sinai, then he said, "But we've come to a better mountain than that. We've come to the Church..." and goes on to describe all the marvelous things about worship in the Church..., and finally leaves us in the middle of that spectacular choir of thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly. And that is exactly where I left you last week in Revelation 5. But the writer of Hebrews was not finished. After that great, concluding statement at the end of chapter 12.

Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

Worship God acceptably!!! That is the concluding statement in chapter 12, but in the original there were no chapter divisions - or even paragraph or line divisions, so when the Hebrews first read this, it would have sounded like this: "Worship God acceptably, keep on loving as brothers." And then verse 2 - Don't forget to welcome strangers. And care for those in prison, and maintain sexual purity, and avoid the love of money. You see, you cannot leave it up there in the heavenlies with the angels and songs and the activities of a worship service. You leave it there and there is a huge danger that people will fall into thinking that acceptable worship is mainly about the music and the Sunday

morning religious observances, and forget [that](#) the heart and soul of pleasing God and offering acceptable worship is living out the great commandment - love God and love your neighbor. Whenever we talk about approaching God with corporate praise and prayers and the various aspects of worship, there is always a danger of falling into the error of focusing on the vertical while neglecting the horizontal. There are people who are all about prayer, reading Scripture, singing praises, worshipping God – but they do not love the saints. And they are not welcoming to strangers. So the writer of Hebrews reminds us that worshipping God acceptably is not only a matter of your physical posture and the words you speak or sing. It is also a matter of loving your brother.

Hebrews 13:16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

The activities of formal worship climax not when we hit the loudest note in our music, but when we set aside our own comfort to show love to a brother. That is what really pleases God.

Imagine a mother with several kids, and they come to her on her birthday and say, “Mom, we want to do something special for you. How about breakfast in bed?” And the mother says, “If you want to do something special to honor me today, how about this – go one full day without fighting with each other.”

So to conclude our series on worship, I am not going to preach through the whole chapter of Heb.13, but I would like to cover the first two verses, so that we end our series with a sermon about love.

Brother Love is Assumed

1 Keep on loving as brothers.

You cannot tell from the NIV, but in the Greek the word “love” is not the command. In fact, it is not even a verb. Here is how it sounds in the original:

The brother-love, keep it up.

It is assumed that they already love one another. [The](#) command is just that they make sure that continues. So his whole discussion on loving the brothers in the Church ends up being what is probably the shortest verse in the whole book of Hebrews. Three words in the Greek, and one of them is “the.” Literally it is, “The brother-love – continue” then he moves on to the next topic. He does not need a long discussion because they understand this. Back in chapter 5 he bemoaned the fact that he cannot give them any meat because they are so immature, he has to just repeat the basics. But even though they are immature, love for the brothers is SO basic that even this church full of spiritual babies understood that much.

Evidence of Salvation

Now, that is not always the case in the New Testament. Other places it is discussed at length, which means it is possible for this to be a problem in a church. But when it is, that church has really serious problems. Love for the saints is so close to the core of the Christian life that if that is lacking, you have major questions about whether there is any genuine saving faith at all. People ask all the time, “How do I know for sure if I’m saved?”

1 John 3:10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

If you do not love the saints, you are not saved. I really worry about people who love to listen to

preaching and love to listen to praise music and everything else, but they have no desire for fellowship. You can get those people to come to church if you pile a big enough guilt trip on them, but that is the only way they will come. They have to be coerced into coming because there is no attraction for them, because they do not love the saints. They see the saints and for the most part they do not like what they see. Any time you look at something God really, really loves and you do not like it, that is not a good sign. It is not likely that your heart is redeemed.

Difficult but Precious

Now, the fact that some of the saints can be hard to get along with is no secret. You have heard the saying, “To live in love with the saints above, Oh, that will be glory. But to live below with the saints we know – that’s a different story.” Or the comparison of the Church with Noah’s ark – if it were not for the storm outside you would never be able to handle the stench inside. There is a kernel of truth in those. Even Scripture acknowledges that the saints can be less than delightful.

Ephesians 4:2 be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Bearing with means to endure or to put up with. If God commands us to put up with someone, that implies that person might be not so easy to love. No doubt about it – love relationships with sinful people are hard and painful. If you have had a bad experience in church - God knows how you feel because it has happened to Him, too. No one understands the pain associated with being part of the Church more than God. No one has had more bad experiences in a church than God has. No one has been neglected more, mistreated more, abused, ignored, marginalized, slandered, or dishonored in churches more than God. So God understands the pain involved in loving the saints. And yet, He still comes – every Sunday. He has not left. Why? Why does God want to be here on Sunday mornings? Does He just hold His nose and come here out of a sense of duty? No. He is here because He wants to be here. But why? Why would He want to be where the saints are gathered? God likes to be with the saints because they are (are you ready for this?)...saints! The Bible says every Christian is a saint (Ro.1:7). The word “saint” means “holy one.” We are people who are being made holy by the Holy Spirit. We are in Christ. We have the perfect righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself credited to our accounts. We are pleasing in His sight because of Christ, and because of the Holy Spirit, who is sanctifying us. We are His handiwork. We are His sons and daughters. And so God loves us. And Scripture is very clear – the more you love God the more you love His children. If you claim to love God and do not love His children you are a liar (1 Jn.4:20).

So do not think that brother love is of small importance just because He passed by it so quickly. The fact that he treats it as such a given just shows how basic and foundational it is.

This Was a (Brother)-Loving Church

And he does not need to spend a lot of time with it because this church he is writing to was already a loving church. Brother-love was there. It was not a problem.

Hebrews 10:33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. 34 You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property

Their love for the brothers was greater than their love for their own possessions or physical wellbeing. That is real love. So this is a very loving church. But no matter how loving a church is, love can always grow cold and so we need to constantly be reminded to maintain our love. So he gives them a quick reminder in verse 1 to maintain their love for the brothers, and then he moves on in verse 2 to talk about another kind of love.

Stranger-Love Commanded

This one they do not seem to be as strong in. In verse 2 he tells them not to forget to “**entertain strangers.**” That is actually just one word in the Greek: *philo-xenos*, which means, literally, stranger-love. The word *philos* is one of the Greek words for love. And *xenos* is the word for stranger. So *philoxenos* means stranger-love. Any time you see the word “hospitality” in the New Testament, this is the word. Hospitality is not entertaining friends – it is just a word that means stranger-love – showing love to strangers. Hospitality is when you make sure an outsider is no longer an outsider. You make him an insider by welcoming him into your circle of love. There should never be a situation where a believer feels like he is on the outside looking in in the church.¹ There is no place in the church for cliques. (That is why every six months we reshuffle all the small groups - so we do not turn into a bunch of cliques that are impossible for an outsider to break into.)

And this kind of love the writer is not going to pass over quite as quickly. Even though he is kind of in bullet-point mode in chapter 13, he slows down a bit when he gets to stranger love. That makes me think this was probably more of a weakness for that church. Here is how it sounds in the Greek:

1 The brother-love, let it continue.

2 The stranger-love, do not forget, for through this some, without knowing it, have welcomed strangers who were angels.²

He uses four times as many words in the part about loving strangers, and he includes an argument for why they should do it. And if I am right in my sense that their church was stronger in brother-love than in stranger-love, then this is an especially helpful text for us right now because I think we probably fall into that same category.

Agape is Strong in Brother-Love and Weak in Stranger-Love

I preach a lot about love, and if there is one thing I can say about this congregation - you are incredibly responsive to the preaching of God’s Word. I have never been in a church that shows as much love as this one. When someone is in trouble, someone has a special need, the giving and generosity of money and time and effort here is unbelievable. I am not saying we are perfect, and without question we have plenty of room for improvement in every area, but I have been continually amazed at the love that is shown in this church for one of the brothers.

However, for the past several months I have really been perplexed at what to make of the things people have been telling me. One day I will hear a report about amazing actions of self-sacrificial love in this church. And the next day I will hear about three different people who left the church because we were so cold and unloving. And I have been at a loss to figure out – are we an unusually loving church or an unusually unloving church? And as I studied this passage this week I realized – it is both. Brother-love in this church is off the charts in many cases. But when it comes to stranger-love, I think we have quite a bit of room for improvement. Just last week we had a visitor who told us that he has been visiting various churches looking for a church home, and he has come to Agape a few different times, and of all the churches he visited Agape was the coldest. And it is actually fairly often that we hear things like that. This is a cold, unfriendly church.

So what are we to make of that? Are we a loving church or an unloving church? I think the explanation may be this: we excel in brother-love and are weak in stranger-love. And that is actually somewhat common when a church makes the transition from a small church where everyone knows everyone to a medium sized church where that is impossible. You look around and say, “There’s no way I can keep track of all these people” and so you give up altogether and just revert to fellowship with your friends. So we need this passage to remind us that the main issue with welcoming strangers is not so you can know everyone in the church. The main issue is having a heart after God’s own heart.

¹ Sometimes Scripture refers to unbelievers as “outsiders” (Col.4:5, 12, 1 Tim.3:7), but never believers.

² This translation brings out the relationship between *φιλαδελφία* and *φιλοξενίας* (brother-lovers and stranger-lovers) and between *φιλοξενίας* and *ξενίσαντες* (stranger-lovers, and receiving a stranger).

It is a character issue. Stranger-love is a virtue. It is like faith or integrity or wisdom or diligence or honesty or any other virtue. It is part of living a life that is pleasing to God. If God deeply loves all the people who walk through that door, then we should too. So ask yourself, when you look at your heart, and you look at all the various virtues that the Holy Spirit has planted in you, is stranger-love there? Or is that missing?

Why Love Strangers? Because they Aren't Strangers to God

And just to drill down on this a little further, let's ask ourselves - Why should we love strangers? Should we love them because God loves strangers? Should we love strangers because it is part of God's nature to love strangers and we should mimic that aspect of His character? No. It is not God's nature to love strangers - God never met a stranger. There is no such thing as a stranger to God - he knows every person in existence better than they know themselves. We do not love strangers because it is in God's nature to love strangers; we love strangers because they are not strangers to God. When a stranger walks through that door, you should welcome him because to God he is not a stranger. He is a dearly loved son (if he is a believer).

Mainly Believers

And I think that is probably the context here is strangers within the Church. Most of the time in the New Testament when you see hospitality discussed, that is the emphasis. So welcoming strangers within the community of faith is the emphasis, although that by no means diminishes our responsibility to show love to unbelievers as well. When the Good Samaritan saw the guy laying in the ditch he did not check his church membership before helping him.

Galatians 6:10 as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

We are to love and welcome all people, but our love for the saints is to be greater. Just like you should be kind to all children, but your responsibility toward your own children in your house is much greater than your responsibility toward some random kid in the neighborhood; so we are to love everyone, saved or lost, but our responsibility toward the saints is much higher than our responsibility toward unbelievers, because while God loves all people, He has a special love for His own children.

The Meaning of Stranger-Love: Welcoming Them into Your Circle of Love

In the first Century, hospitality was mainly associated with giving lodging to traveling preachers. Preachers would come through and need a place to stay for a day or two. Kind of like today when a visiting missionary needs housing for the night.

But the principle goes way beyond just housing. The word is not stranger-housing; it is stranger-loving. It simply refers to taking an outsider and bringing him inside your circle of love. And it might be giving him a place to stay, or inviting him over for dinner, or in the more narrow context, just including someone in on a conversation that he is being left out of, or being sensitive to someone not knowing all the inside jokes with you and your friends. Any kind of inclusion of an outsider out of love - that is hospitality. In our culture in the church, new people generally are not in need of lodging. But they are in need of friends. And it is important to God that we welcome them and draw them in - because to Him they are not strangers.

Like Your Child Entering a New Class

Imagine you move to a new city and your little five year old goes for the first time to her Sunday school class. And she is scared to death that the kids might be mean to her. And you tell her she has to go, but when she goes in, you watch through the window to see how the kids treat her. You want to know if they are going to welcome her and include her, or just ignore her. The way you feel as you

look in through the window – that is the heart of God when He brings one of His daughters or sons into this church for the first time. A new person walks through that door and God is looking in the window to see if we will welcome him or ignore him. God forgive us for times when someone has come here and we left them out in the cold while we enjoyed our friends or ourselves – just walked right by them, acting like they did not exist.

Remember in the parable of the landowner who planted a vineyard and rented it out to some farmers? He sent his servants to collect the harvest, and they mistreated the servants.

Matthew 21:37 Last of all, he sent his son to them saying, 'They will respect my son.'

That parable is talking about the Father sending His Son, Jesus Christ into the world. But wouldn't the logic He uses in that verse apply the same to any of His children? If God sends one of His children into this church on a particular Sunday, wouldn't He have that same expectation – “Surely they will respect My son/daughter”?

The larger we get the easier it is to forget that the Church is a family – a world-wide family. When a stranger walks in, if that person is a believer, he is our brother! She is our sister. It is easier to remember that when the church is small, but the larger the church gets the easier it is to start treating it like a mall or grocery store. When you go to the store, you do not walk around greeting everyone, saying, “Welcome to King Soopers – I'm so glad you came!” It is perfectly acceptable to go to the store, never make any eye contact with the other shoppers, and never say a word to anyone. But it would not be acceptable to do that with a guest in your home. Especially if it is your daughter's fiancé, whom you are meeting for the first time. You do not ignore guests in your home.

Applies to All of Us

And that applies to you no matter how long you have been here –even if you are the stranger. If this is an issue of character, then God expects you to reach out in love to strangers no matter who you are or where you are. Part of the problem with a growing church is the fact that new people tend to think of themselves as new people rather than family members. And so they do not feel a sense of responsibility in the church to welcome others. If we took all the new people in this church – everyone who started coming just in the last six months – and put you all in one corner of the room, then we took all the people who have come for two years or more and put them over there, those two groups would be the same size. And if we put all the people who have been coming less than two years over here, and those who have come more than two years there, the new group would be three times the size of the old group. All that to say – if you are new, you are a significant segment of this church, and you need to step up and welcome anyone who is a stranger to you – no matter how long they have been coming.

How to Increase Your Stranger-Love

OK, so if we are weak in the area of stranger-love, how can we improve? There are two things I see in this text.

Do not Forget (Be Intentional)

The first instruction we have is imperative in verse 2. Do not forget. That is the only command in the verse. The command is not to love strangers - the command is to not ~~to~~ forget to love strangers. Isn't it true that a great number of things we neglect in the Christian life get neglected not so much out of willful rebellion, but just simply because it does not occur to us? We just do not have the presence of mind to think of it when the opportunity or test arises. That is why we have those 1:25 groups. They are named after James 1:25 which is all about not forgetting – do not be forgetful hearers, but be doers of the Word. The greatest hindrance to our putting into practice what we learn from God's Word is the

problem of forgetting.

So step one in improving in this area is to simply remember - to be intentional about hospitality. Make it a priority. Plan a little. Think about how to do it better. Remind yourself that this is something God requires of you.

Probably the easiest way to start would be here on Sunday mornings (or Saturday nights). It is as easy as this - take your bulletin and a pen, and walk up to someone whose name you do not know. Smile, say hello, and then tell them your name. Most people at that point will tell you their name. When they do, write it down. I do that with everyone I meet on Sunday. Before I say another word I write down their name because if I wait until they walk away I will have already forgotten it. So I just say, "I need to write that down so I don't forget." And if you are afraid that will seem strange - don't worry about it. It doesn't offend people. I do that numerous times every single week, and I have been for years, and never once has anyone gotten offended.

"You're writing down my name? How dare you! You should just remember it!!!"

It has never happened. Usually they smile or laugh and say, "Yeah, I'm the same way."

At that point, if you are the type who can carry on a conversation, great. If you are not, that's fine. Just finish writing down the name, then look up at them and say, "Well, I'm really glad you're here this morning and walk away." It is a piece of cake.

Then what I would really like is if you then jot that name down on a prayer card or something and give it to me. Just say, "Hey, Darrell, I met these folks earlier." That way I can add them to the list of people I pray for that week (in case they don't fill out a prayer card). I would absolutely love it if a dozen different people walked up to me every Sunday and handed me slips of paper with a name written on it. I always invite visitors to come meet me after the service, but probably not even a third of them do. So I never meet most of the folks. If you will give me their names, I will pray for them.

And it would not hurt you to pray for them too. God sent them here that week, they were not in any other church, and so they are our responsibility this week. So pray for them through the week. In fact, if you are at a loss for making conversation, the easiest thing in the world is to just say, "How can I pray for you this week?" Then put that bulletin in your Bible and pray for them by name several times through the week. Then the next couple of Sundays keep your eye open for them. If you spot them, say hi again, and let them know you have been praying. And if you go to one of the 1:25 groups, invite them to that.

I think it would be fantastic if every one of you did that - just made an effort each week to either write down one new name, or say hi to someone you met last week or the week before - there is no reason why every single one of us couldn't do that. But even if only half of us did it - still, I cannot imagine anyone would ever come here again and say this is the coldest church they visited. They might leave for other reasons, but they would not be able to say everyone ignored them. And much more importantly, their Father in heaven standing at the window looking in will be thoroughly pleased.

Jesus Welcomed Strangers

And if you want an example, just look to Jesus. I said earlier that God has never met a stranger. And that is true of God the Father, but God the Son - the Lord Jesus Christ, in His human nature, actually did meet strangers. Think about the various times in Jesus' earthly life when we see Him welcoming someone and showing kindness and love. So many times they were perfect strangers. We know He spent a great deal of time pouring Himself into His Disciples, and they were most definitely His priority. However, in most of the events we have recorded in His life, He is interacting with strangers. The woman at the well, the widow at Nain, the centurion, the synagogue ruler, the woman with the bleeding problem, the demoniac at Gadera, the Canaanite woman, the man born blind, the deaf mute, the lepers - all strangers. And Jesus loved them all. Why? Why did Jesus love strangers? And why should we? We are given a reason in verse 2. And this is our second insight from the text on how to improve in this area. The first is remember - be intentional about it. Have a routine set up so that this is part of what you normally do so you do not forget about it and neglect it. The second way

we can improve in this area is think about who those strangers might be.

Consider Who the Person Might Be

2 Do not forget stranger-love, for through it some have, without knowing it, received angels.

What kind of an argument is that? Is this saying that the reason we should welcome strangers is on the off chance that it might be an angel? If so, it would not be much of a motivation, because when you meet a stranger, what are the odds that it is an angel? We know of only two times when that happened in Scripture (where someone thought he was showing kindness to a human being and it turned out to be an angel). No doubt that is what the writer is referring to here. Abraham in Genesis 18 and Lot in Genesis 19. So it has happened. But honestly, when you meet a stranger, how likely is it that it is happening again? Of all the strangers you have met – the ones you later got to know – none of them turned out to be angles, right? Those of us who know each other – we know we are not angels because we see each other commit sins. We see each other confessing and repenting of sins. After you meet someone, as soon as you see him commit a sin of any kind immediately you can say, “Nope, not an angel.” So the odds of a particular visitor to the church actually being an angel are statistically very slim.

I do not think the point of this verse is to say that we should treat strangers well just in case they are angels. The point is broader than that. What he is saying is, when you meet a stranger, you do not know who you are dealing with. So you should honor him just in case he turns out to be someone you should honor - or someone you will later regret not honoring. You do not want someone to show up in your prayer group one day and think, “Oh, I remember when he first came. I wish I would have been more welcoming to him.”

I remember one time when I was in high school I had a conflict with some guy on a motorcycle and I don't remember what it was about, but I do remember just really letting loose on this guy verbally. He did something that made me really mad, and I was really telling him off. And it almost came to blows. I was glad it didn't because I don't know how to fight for one thing, for another he was wearing a motorcycle helmet and I wasn't. But it did not turn into a fight – we both just walked away. But afterward I felt horrible. The Holy Spirit had me in a full nelson all day. I had never done anything like that before, and I knew it was wrong, and my conscience really wailed away on me the rest of that week. The next Sunday I visited a new youth group, and guess who was there. I wanted to crawl under a rock. I am sure that kid saw me and thought, “Typical hypocrite – comes to youth group acting all spiritual, but outside of church he's just like the world.” That was a horrible experience. The whole time at the youth group I was thinking I should go up to him and repent and seek his forgiveness, but I never did. So then I got to deal with an accusing conscience again. That was such a horrible experience – it is painful for me to think about it even today. If I would have known when the incident happened that this was a brother in Christ that I would meet the next Sunday at youth group, I would not have dreamed of acting the way I did. Maybe you have some story like that too. You lose your temper with someone on the highway on the way to a friend's house, then you find out that person in the other car turns out to be the guy that your friend wanted you to meet.

We should show love to strangers because we do not know who we are dealing with. The visitor who is here this morning that you walked right past and ignored – if suddenly God showed you who that person is, all their spiritual gifts, all the wonderful aspects of His character that God has been building into that person, all the things about that person that God loves because they are the handiwork of His Son – if God showed you all that right now, do you think you would wish you had showed a little more interest in that person?

If you knew the full story about that stranger, you would love him. So save yourself the regret and just love him right off the bat.

Compassion

When you see a visitor, instead of letting personal comfort dictate your actions, let compassion drive you. Think about the person himself - not just a face in a crowd, but a person, with fears and insecurities and desires and needs just like you - that will draw out some compassion for that person. And if you need help generating compassion in your heart, just think back to times when you have been left out of a group you wanted to be a part of. That is the argument behind the strong emphasis on stranger-love in the Old Testament law.

Exodus 22:21 "Do not mistreat an alien or oppress him, for you were aliens in Egypt.

You see commands like that over and over in the Old Testament. Show kindness to outsiders because you know what it is like to be in their shoes.

When you are an outsider and you walk in to a group of people who already know and love one another – and you do not know anyone – that is intimidating and unpleasant and uncomfortable. But hospitality is the virtue that sees that discomfort and cares about it, and does everything it can to alleviate it.

Conclusion: The Stranger is Jesus

And if you wonder how important that is, just read Matthew 25. This is what is going to happen on Judgment Day. Jesus will divide all of humanity into two groups and put one on His right and the other on His left.

Matthew 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For ... I was a stranger and you invited me in

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when...?

40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' 41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For ... 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in...

That stranger who is a believer is so precious to God that the way you treat him is the way you are credited or punished for treating Jesus Himself.

Benediction: Hebrews 6:10-11 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. 11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.

Application Questions

- 1) What is the hardest part of welcoming strangers for you?
- 2) As you examine your heart, how would you assess your level of love and compassion toward strangers in the church?
- 3) Is there something in your routine you could change that would make you more likely to be mindful of the importance of welcoming strangers in the church? What kinds of things are most likely to stand in the way of you following through on those changes?