

I was greatly taken with Mike's contrasting the host/guest model of hospitality with that of fellowship. I think that the move straight in to fellowship mode, without the host/guest preamble is possibly the more valuable one when it comes to interactions with fellow human beings. We seem to have adopted the word and concept into church life, but I have found instant fellowship elsewhere, without knowing anything about those with whom I'm enjoying the warmth of fellowship. It relates to deep shared interest in a subject, pastime or cause. Is this a clue to how we may develop the fellowship which we already have in our church? [BK]

Within a Christian community perhaps any formality in the host-guest relationship is broken down by the fact that we all play the roles of 'host' and 'guest' at different times. I'm reminded of the verse from the hymn:

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too. [JP]

HOSPITALITY



Week 4: Fellowship and Welcome

Welcome > hospitality > fellowship - This is a surely a progression.

In welcoming one needs to get to know or have foreknowledge of a person to learn what hospitality to offer. Hospitality may become fellowship almost immediately but more often is a period getting to know each other, building up trust and understanding and a wish to share and care.

There is a danger when inviting a newcomer to join a conversation that after initial pleasantries the conversation returns to talk about people or events known well to the original group while the newcomer remains an uncomfortable outsider. No-one is being unkind, just thoughtless in not giving explanations. [JØ]

