

# Romans 12:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

## Analysis

**Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.** Paul continues practical exhortations with two commands on generosity. **Distributing to the necessity of saints** (ταῖς χρείαις τῶν ἁγίων κοινωνοῦντες, *tais chreiais tōn hagiōn koinōnountes*) literally means 'sharing in the needs of the saints'—*koinōnia* (fellowship, communion) involves material support, not just emotional solidarity. The early church practiced radical economic sharing (Acts 2:44-45, 4:32-35), ensuring no believer lacked necessities. *Hagioi* (saints) is Paul's standard term for believers, emphasizing their set-apart status. Christians care for their own, especially the poor, persecuted, or displaced.

Second, **given to hospitality** (τὴν φιλοξενίαν διώκοντες, *tēn philoxenian diōkontes*)—the verb *diōkō* means 'pursue, chase after'! Hospitality isn't passive availability but active pursuit of strangers (*philoxenia*, 'love of strangers'). In the ancient world, inns were expensive and dangerous; traveling Christians depended on fellow believers' homes for food and lodging (3 John 5-8). Hebrews 13:2 famously adds, 'Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.' Hospitality is essential evangelism and discipleship infrastructure.

## Historical Context

The early church developed networks of hospitality across the Roman Empire, enabling missionaries, teachers, and refugees to travel safely. Believers fleeing persecution (like Aquila and Priscilla, Acts 18:2) relied on Christian hospitality.

Wealthy patrons who owned larger homes opened them for worship gatherings and guest lodging, while poorer believers contributed food and service. Paul's collection for the Jerusalem church (Romans 15:25-27) exemplified 'distributing to the necessity of saints' on a large scale. Hospitality was both mercy ministry and missional strategy.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. Who in your church or Christian community has financial, material, or practical needs you could 'share in' this week?
2. How intentionally are you 'pursuing' hospitality—opening your home, table, and resources to fellow believers and strangers?
3. What fears or excuses (not enough space, time, or money) prevent you from practicing New Testament-level hospitality?

## Interlinear Text

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ταῖς	χρείαις	τῶν	ἀγίων	κοινωνοῦντες	τὴν
G3588	to the necessity	G3588	of saints	Distributing	G3588
	G5532		G40	G2841	
φιλοξενίαν	διώκοντες				
to hospitality	given				
G5381	G1377				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 13:16** (Parallel theme): But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

**2 Corinthians 9:12** (Holy): For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

**Hebrews 6:10** (Holy): For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

**1 John 3:17** (Parallel theme): But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

**1 Peter 4:9** (Parallel theme): Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

**Galatians 6:10** (Parallel theme): As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

**Hebrews 13:2** (Parallel theme): Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

**1 Timothy 3:2** (Parallel theme): A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

**Acts 4:35** (Parallel theme): And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

**Matthew 25:35** (Parallel theme): For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: