

## From First Church Visit

### 1 Peter 4:9

<sup>9</sup>Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

**What is it that really makes your church visitors want to return?** I think we are fooling ourselves when we say “*It’s because of the great truth in our messages*”. I have heard people talk so poorly about the church down the road and say “*we have the REAL gospel here!*” But maybe we should stop to understand that our first time guests may not even know the difference.

When I think of how Jesus drew the crowd and woe them I have to understand that it wasn’t all about His message.

### John 6:25-26

<sup>25</sup>And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither? <sup>26</sup>Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

**Maybe we should consider what draws the crowd.** Almost always it is not the message being preached. If you ask an overwhelming number of Christians why they join a certain church you will find one thing in common. “They were hospitable to us.” Why do you believe it is so important for us to entertain strangers and that the qualifications of an elder is to be hospitable?

**I am not saying our message should be considered less important than our events...** but we need to understand that our first time guests get their impression of our church from how they are received. We should work on this before we think about having them return.

I used to be against big events meant to draw people in and have fun instead of preaching the word of God. But we are really supposed to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. ***A serpent will draw you in and hypnotize you with the rattle of the tail (our events)... then it will strike (our message).***

**Ok, So You Got Them There And After Playing Nice They Came Back... Now What? We Talk About That In The Next Lesson.**