

WELCOMING

Definition

Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary

1. (*n.*) Received with gladness; admitted willingly to the house, entertainment, or company; as, a welcome visitor.
2. (*n.*) Producing gladness; grateful; as, a welcome present; welcome news.
3. (*n.*) Free to have or enjoy gratuitously; as, you are welcome to the use of my library.
4. (*n.*) Salutation to a newcomer.
5. (*n.*) Kind reception of a guest or newcomer; as, we entered the house and found a ready welcome.
6. (*v. t.*) To salute with kindness, as a newcomer; to receive and entertain hospitably and cheerfully; as, to welcome a visitor; to welcome a new idea.

Greek

[588. apodechomai -- to accept gladly, welcome](#)

... to accept gladly, **welcome**. Part of Speech: Verb Transliteration: apodechomai Phonetic Spelling: (ap-od-ekh'-om-ahee) Short Definition: I receive, **welcome** ...

What the does the Bible say in regards to welcome.

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

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Heb 13 : 2

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." Mark 9 : 37

'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Mark 12 : 31

Motivation for welcoming

*....and you will receive a **rich welcome** into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. ...* 2 Peter 1 : 11

The promise of receiving a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom is made clear by Peter who challenges us to make one's calling and election sure by adding to our faith goodness, etc from verse 5.

We need to grow in our conviction of the rich welcome we will receive in order to be able to welcome others effectively.

Who do you welcome and what do you welcome them to?

Welcoming people into your life by:

Welcoming them at home/work/School/sport/ Group/Welcoming at Church.....sense of belonging.....

Considerations for effective church welcoming

1. Every church member is a host and not a guest. Making visitors feel welcome is primarily the responsibility of all members, not the “evangelistic” few.
2. The most important person for a visitor to talk to in order to feel at home in a new church is you. It is not the pastor, or the greeter, but a regular.
3. Treat first time visitors as guests of God, not strangers.
4. Smile at everyone and offer your hand.
5. Look people in the eye and smile.
6. Take the initiative; don’t wait for visitors to initiate conversation with you.
7. Learn people’s names and remember them.
8. Use only appropriate touch such as a hand shake or a gentle pat on the back.
9. Ask questions and learn about your guests. It is better to express interest in them than it is to try to “sell” your church.
10. Listening is a very effective way to show love.
11. Greet children at their level.
12. Let children be children. Yes, family’s love children’s church and child care. They also appreciate it when we allow them to decide if their children should remain with them in worship. Expect kids in the worship to cry or play up occasionally. Don’t expect them to be grown-ups.
13. Invite visitors to join you at something, anything! Invite them to a fellowship meal for example.
14. Never let new people sit alone. Take initiative and go to them without delay
15. Help visitors find seating that suits their family’s needs.
16. Help first time visitors by being their tour guide and helping them find resources. Visiting a new church is like a cross-cultural experience, even for those of us who have visited dozens of other churches.(show them don’t tell them)
17. Invite people to accept an information brochure.
18. Tell people you’re glad they are here.....
19. Pray for them throughout your week.
20. Be yourself!Be loving! You have the capacity to love people, and to “love deeply”. Practice making people feel accepted and what you give to others will be returned to you.
21. Be culturally adept.....offer noodles as well as coffee ☺
22. Hospitality is not a given among Christians, it’s a calling which requires practice.....lots of practice.

Consider yourself called!

