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## What is Valley Station Church?

It is a group of Christians within walking distance for most of you. It is a group of Christians who are determined to be pleasing to God. How do they do this? They do all in their power to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ with no changes, additions, subtractions or alterations.

It is a group of Christians that claim no human denominational affiliation — just Christians working and worshipping together at the Lord's word teaches.

If you need Christ as your Lord and Savior, we believe you will find him among the Christians at Valley Station.

**Come and see.**

The **VALLEY TIDINGS** is published monthly by the church of Christ, meeting at 1803 Dixie Garden Drive, Valley Station, Kentucky 40272

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### Assemblies

Sunday Bible Class 9:30 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 P.M.  
Ladies Class, Thursday 10:00 A.M.

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# Valley Tidings

**Set For The Defense of the Glad Tidings**

Volume VIII, June, 2007, Number 6

## SIX QUALITIES OF STRONG FAMILIES

Nicholas Stinnett, after studying many families, isolated the following qualities as characteristics of stable, loving families.

1. In strong families, members express a great deal of appreciation for each other. They look for the best qualities in each other.
2. Strong families spend time together. This is not a forced kind of thing; they genuinely enjoy being together.
3. These families are deeply committed to promoting one another's happiness and welfare. They actively try to make life more enjoyable for the family.
4. Strong families have good communication. They talk to each other, listen to each other, and fight constructively (by getting their disagreements out in the open).
5. Most strong families are religious. This is more than "going to church." It involves a commitment to a spiritual lifestyle.
6. Strong families are able to deal with crises in a positive manner. They are united by a crisis instead of being fragmented by it. Through it all, they remain supportive of one another.



## When Visitors Attend

“If You Are Visiting Today, We Want You To Know That You Are Our Honored Guests.”

That’s not just something we repeat at the start of services because we can’t think of anything else to say. It comes from a genuine interest in our visitors, those who come to worship God with us. It comes from an understanding that we have an obligation that extends beyond the borders of our brethren. It comes from the Bible.

Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome that they should be “contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality” (Rom. 12:13). The word “hospitality” literally means, “love to strangers.” Our friends are not the only ones who are to be recipients of our warm responses. Love is for all men.

This is a principle that certainly applies within the walls of the worship service. The same Paul told the church in Corinth that when they used their spiritual gifts in the right way, the unbeliever would “fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you” (1 Cor. 14:25). What we do as a congregation has profound influence on visitors, causing them to conclude either, “God is with these people” or, “these are not God’s people.” How, then, can we attend to the visitor?

**1. Get The House Ready For Company:** -- When Abraham entertained angels unaware (Heb. 13:2), it all started because he was “sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day” (Gen. 18:1). This was a custom of that culture. A man would sit at the opening of the doorway so he could watch for travelers and strangers who might need food, drink, or a place to stay. Sure enough, when Abraham “lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them” (Gen. 18: 2). In the ancient east, hospitality was a pleasure, not a chore. Stranger became invited guests.

Our preparation for visitors begins with our familiarity with the household of God. How can we be positioned at the door, looking for guests, when we don’t know who the members are? How can we be practicing hospitality to strangers when we don’t even do that to our own brethren? Visitors are observant. They watch. What impression do we leave them when we talk only to our own close circle of friends? Or when we go out to eat with the same people week after week? We should behave in such a way that would make them feel like they would fit in with us. Get the house ready. Get to know your family.

**2. Give Your Best To Every Guest:** -- Abraham didn’t offer his company any leftovers. He ran to meet them and begged them to let him be their servant. He hurried inside and had Sarah make fresh bread cakes. He ran to the herd and took a “tender and choice calf” (Gen. 18:7) and had it prepared. Once he brought the refreshments, he stood nearby should there be anything else they needed. Remember, he was unaware

of who these stranger were. (He also brought water and washed their feet, JWS).

We ought to treat every visitor as we would treat the Lord. Not just those who are outgoing toward us. “If you show partiality, you are committing sin” (Jas. 2:9) is said in the context of how we handle visitors to our assembly. Can you help guests find the Bible classes for their children? Can you offer a stranger your seat so they won’t have to worry about taking someone else’s? Can you invite a visitor to eat lunch with your family? You would do that for the Lord. When you do that for a guest, you serve them and Him, too.

**3. Keep The Door Of Opportunity Open:** -- Abraham was rewarded for his hospitality. He hastened to serve three men who passed his way that day. He did not search for excuses but capitalized on the opportunity. Little did he know that after eating the feast he prepared for them, his visitors would say, “I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son” (Gen. 18:10). All the personal sacrifices made for these guests were worth this promise to Abraham, through which the Lord ultimately visited all the nations of the earth with eternal blessings.

Visitors are our best prospects. Their attendance alone is an indication of their interest in spiritual things. Shouldn’t we show some interest in them? Just one warm greeting, one firm handshake, one extra effort could make such an impression on them that they come back and eventually come to the Lord. Sure, there are risks of embarrassment and awkwardness involved, but when you run from the risks, you run from the opportunity.

”Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it” (Heb. 13:2). As children of Abraham, let us be like our father when visitors attend.

-Bubba Garner in *Biblical Insights*, Vol. 7, No. 2, Feb. 2007.

### MARRIAGE IS “TILL IN DEATH” YOU DO PART

And he answered and said, Have ye not read, that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh? So that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.—Matthew 19:4-6

