

OCTOBER 1, 2006

We are all guests all the time. This seems an odd statement. You have your own home. You have your job. You belong to your church. And yet, you are a guest!

A number of years ago, the church I grew up in had need to call a new pastor. My brother ended up on the call committee. One of the interviewing pastors opened his description of himself with a hearty thanks for allowing him to be a guest at the church that day. James piped up with a phrase that still strikes me. He replied something to the effect that "we are all guests here."

Each church is the house of God. God's spirit is there. Every time we step through the doors, we are in God's house and in God's presence. We are guests. Not one of us has or can earn the right to be there. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23 NRSV). That's okay though. We are all allowed to be guests because of grace.

We are all part of the body of Christ, but that is because we have received an invitation. "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift," (Ephesians 3:4-7). Through grace, baptism, and the Spirit, we are given admittance to the party!

Along this line of thought, your job, your house, your life, and everything you are are the favors at the greatest party ever thrown. I can't think of anywhere I would rather be a guest!

Dear Lord,

Thank you for inviting us to your party. Thank you for providing us with the gifts we so often take for granted. Help us to follow your will and spread word of the celebration to those around us.

In Jesus name we pray,
Amen.