

sermon notes

May 30, 2021 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Harvest Decatur
WhollyTransformed | "More than just Greetings" | Romans 16:1-16

Three Principles Derived from Romans 16:1-16:

1. Church is a _____ of _____
2. Church is a _____ of _____
3. Church is a _____ of _____

Questions for further application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Based on Romans 16:1-16, would you describe Paul as a "people-person"? Why or why not? How does Paul know so many people in the church in Rome if he's never visited that church?

There is great diversity among the individuals Paul greets in Romans 16 (e.g. men, women, Jews, Gentiles, rich, poor, slaves, freemen). Why would Paul take time in this letter to greet so many different people?

GET PERSONAL

Paul commends several people in the church for their hard work and collaborating for the gospel. How do you think these individuals worked for the church? Why is it important for Christians to work hard on behalf of the church? How are you personally working for Christ at your local church?

Paul was not an "ivory tower theologian" who lived in isolation from people. Why are relationships in the church so important for us as Christians? Paul even had relationships with people from several different churches (e.g. the church in Rome, Ephesus, Corinth, Jerusalem, etc.). Is it healthy for Christians to have relationships with believers from other churches? Why or why not?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Paul tells the church in Rome to "Greet one another with a holy kiss." What was he trying to accomplish with that custom? How might we accomplish something similar in our culture with a different custom? In what way do you convey warmth and brotherly love towards your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ?

Do you celebrate diversity in your church? If so, how? How is your church a priesthood of believers? Does everyone serve in the church? How are relationships grown and strengthened in your church? How might you strengthen your relationships with believers both inside and outside of your church?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Phoebe is referred to as a servant (Greek: δούκονος) of the church in Cenchreae (16:1). In what ways are women called to help and serve the local church? Should a woman serve in the office of deacon (1 Tim 3:8-13)? Should women serve as pastors or elders (1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; 1 Pet 5:1-5)? See the following video to help you answer these questions: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zic0Q6foE_8
See also the following article which argues that women can serve as deacons: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/bible-support-female-deacons-yes/>
See the following article which argues that women should not serve as deacons: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/bible-support-female-deacons-no/>
For a further discussion on the issue of women as pastors/elders, read the following: <https://www.9marks.org/article/can-women-be-pastors-but-not-elders/>