

RELATING TO ONE ANOTHER
Romans 16:1-27
4/10/16

Read Romans 16:1-7

In Romans 16 we see Paul's love and affection for his fellow Christians.

Though Paul had never been to Rome, he knew several of the Christians there.

Travel was more common in those days than you might think.

Paul's love for his fellow Christians is an example for how we should relate with one another.

Nobody is perfect

We can focus on the strengths of others or on their weaknesses.

We can choose to criticize them or commend them.

Commend- to speak of approvingly

To express appreciation for their strengths

To acknowledge their value

To recommend them to others

1. We, like Paul, should commend others. 16:1-16

1-2 Phoebe

One of at least 10 women mentioned in this chapter

Sister

She was a devoted member of the same spiritual family.

Servant of the church/ helper of many

Women in the early church were as important as women are in churches today.

Women in the early church cared for the sick, helped the poor, and hosted the churches which met in their homes.

They disciplined younger women and instructed children.

They and their husbands hosted traveling preachers and Christians in their homes.

Phoebe is probably the person who carried this letter from Corinth to Rome.

3-5a Priscilla and Aquila

Fellow workers in Christ

Risked their own necks

Hosted the church in their house

5b Epaphroditus- beloved

6 Mary worked hard for you

7 Andronicus and Junias

Fellow kinsmen

Fellow prisoners

Outstanding among the apostles

This may simply mean that their ministry was known and greatly appreciated by the apostles.

Or it may mean that they are called apostles.

Apostle simply means one sent out as a messenger to represent another.

Perhaps they had been sent out by the church at Rome to minister elsewhere as missionaries.

This would not put them in the same category as the 12 apostles who were sent out by Jesus.

In Christ before me- saved before Paul was

8-15 Others

beloved (3)- Ampliatus, Stachys and Persis

fellow workers (5)- Urbanus, Tryphaena, Tryphosa, Persis and Timothy

Apelles is *approved* in Christ v. 10

kinsmen (7)- Herodion, Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater

cf vv. 13, 23 mother and brother

Rufus is a *choice man* in the Lord v. 13

Paul recognized and thanked other Christians

He showed genuine appreciation for them.

We should demonstrate the same love and appreciation for one another.

We are a part of the same spiritual family

There should be no envy, jealousy, or selfish ambition among Christians.

We are not in competition with one another, but teammates

In verses 1-16 we see that we should express appreciation for the strengths and contributions of one another.

In verses 17-20 we see an exception.

Paul warns about the danger of those who are divisive.

2. We must keep an eye on those who cause dissension. 16:17-20

a. They are divisive. v. 17a

They spread strife and discord in the church. cf Proverbs 6:14,19; 16:28

2 Timothy 2:17 . . . their talk will spread like gangrene.

- ◆ They slander other Christians
- ◆ They criticize church leadership.
- ◆ They hinder the work of God and the spiritual growth of other Christians.

b. They teach and act contrary to the scriptures. v. 17b

Acts 20:29-30 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;³⁰ and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

- ◆ Emergent church, Strange Fire, Prosperity Gospel, Word of Faith Movement

We are to keep an eye on those who cause dissension and on those who teach things contrary to the scriptures.

c. They are slaves of their own appetites. v. 18a

Philippians 3:19 . . . whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

They use the church to pursue their personal desires and self-interest.

- They are motivated by pride, envy, jealousy, and selfish ambition. Cf James 3:14, 16

They desire power and personal recognition.

- The Bible teaches that they are also often motivated by a desire for money or to take sexual advantage of unsuspecting women in the church.

d. They deceive the unsuspecting with smooth and flattering speech. v. 18b

- They are likable.
- What they say sounds good.

Colossians 2:4 I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.

2 Peter 2:3 and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words . . .

They are clever and deceitful both in slandering others and/or in their false teaching.

20 They are tools of Satan

- ◆ Some are sinful Christians

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.¹⁵ Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

- ♦ Some are unsaved.

Matthew 7:15 "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

Cf 1 John 2:19

1 Corinthians 11:19 For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you.

e. We are to turn away from them. v. 17c

Titus 3:10-11 Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, ¹¹ knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

2 John 1:10-11 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into *your* house, and do not give him a greeting; ¹¹ for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

3. Greet One Another 16:16,21-24

16 Greet one another with a holy kiss

Embrace, welcome and treat one another with affection

Don't let barriers develop or remain.

21-24 Greetings

We should reach out to visitors and fellow members.

Beyond simply saying hello

4. Praise God. 16:25-27

25a Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ

To cause you to stand firm

25b-26 According to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages

A *mystery* is something that was not fully revealed in the Old Testament but is disclosed in the New Testament

Here the mystery is the gospel: The good news that that salvation is by the obedience of faith in Christ.

A willingness to turn from self-will and sin and receive Christ as your Lord and Savior

1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

Jude 1:24-25 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God our Savior, through Jesus

Christ our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.