



# BEULAH FIRST BAPTIST

Rev. Dr. Felix L. Cole, Senior Pastor

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**Focus:** Rooted – A Study Through Romans

**Week 18:** The Will Of God – Rooted People Build Rooted Communities

**Romans 15 -16**

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## Introduction:

As we conclude Romans, Paul ends his epistle with a shift from theology to practice and testimony. Throughout this epistle Paul has explained humanity's need for salvation, God's provision through Christ, and the transformed life that follows faith. Now he gives a picture of what a healthy church looks like when the gospel takes root. Romans 15 emphasizes serving others, welcoming others, and participating in God's mission. Romans 16 highlights faithful servants who helped build the early church. Together, these chapters remind us that rooted believers build rooted communities.

## Key Scriptures

Romans 15:1-6      Romans 15:7-13      Romans 15:14-21      Romans 16:1-2  
Romans 16:17-20      Romans 16:25-27

**1. Put Others First – (Romans 15:1-6):** Spiritual maturity is demonstrated by helping others grow. Strong believers are called to bear the weaknesses of others rather than living to please themselves. Christ Himself modeled selfless service by sacrificing His own comfort for the good of others.

- † Strong believers help weaker believers grow
- † Spiritual maturity creates responsibility
- † Christ is the model of selfless service
- † Unity glorifies God

## Biblical Cross References

Galatians 6:2      Philippians 2:3–8      Mark 10:45      Hebrews 10:24–25

**2. Welcome Others as Christ Welcomed You – (Romans 15:7-13):** The church in Rome consisted of Jews and Gentiles who often had different traditions and backgrounds. Paul reminds them that Christ welcomed them all through grace. Therefore, believers should extend that same grace to one another. Christian unity is not rooted in personal preference but in the work of Christ.

- † Christ welcomed us despite our differences
- † The Gospel creates one family
- † Unity is rooted in Christ
- † Hope produces joy and peace through the Holy Spirit

## Biblical Cross References

Ephesians 2:13–22      John 17:20–23      Colossians 3:14–15

**3. Our Great Commission – (Romans 15:14-33):** Paul explains his ministry and missionary calling. His desire was to preach Christ where Christ had not yet been named. Paul understood that the Gospel was never meant to remain inside the church but was intended to reach the world. Every believer has a role in advancing God's mission.

- † Every believer has a role in God's mission
- † The Gospel must move beyond the church walls (**Saved People are Sent People**)
- † Kingdom work requires partnership
- † Prayer strengthens ministry
- † The mission continues until all have heard

**Biblical Cross References**

Matthew 28:18–20 Acts 1:8 Romans 10:13–15 2 Corinthians 5:18–20

**4. Faithful Servants Strengthen the Church – (Romans 16:1-16):** Romans 16 is often viewed as a list of names, but it is actually a picture of a healthy church. Paul recognizes men and women who faithfully served Christ and supported the ministry of the Gospel. Before mentioning anyone else, Paul commends Phoebe, a faithful servant of the church at Cenchreae.

**Phoebe and the Ministry of Deacons:** Romans 16:1 identifies Phoebe as a *diakonos* (Deacon) of the church at Cenchreae. The same Greek word is used in **1 Timothy 3** when discussing deacons. **Diakonos is singular, has no gender form, and it simply means servant.**

Many scholars understand and or suggest - 1 Timothy 3 to describe three groups:

The phrase "women likewise" (**gynaikas hōsautōs**) uses the same **transitional** word Paul uses when moving from elders to deacons. The Greek text does not include the possessive word "their." Because of this structure, Phoebe's example, and evidence from the early church, many Christians conclude that qualified men and women may serve as deacons while maintaining the biblical distinction between elders and deacons.

- † Ministry is a team effort
- † Phoebe was publicly commended by Paul
- † She was a servant (*diakonos*) of the church
- † Ministry is built on service, not status
- † Every believer has a role in God's work

**Biblical Cross Reference**

Acts 6:1–7 Romans 16:1–2 1 Timothy 3:8–13 1 Peter 4:10–11

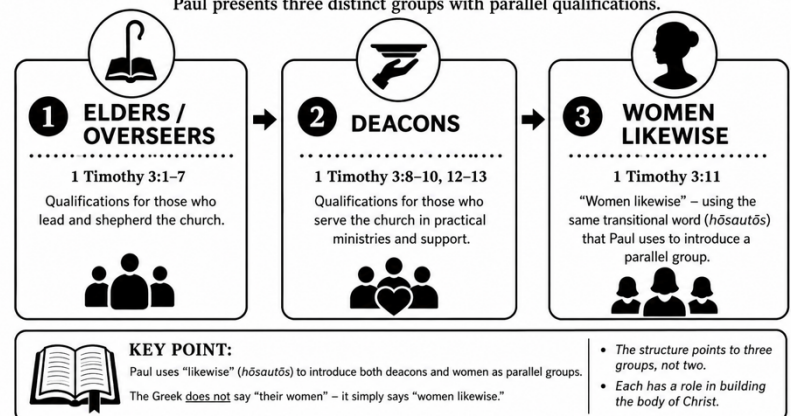
**5. Protect the Church and Give God the Glory – (Romans 16:17–27):** Paul closes the letter with a warning against false teaching and unnecessary division. He then ends with praise to God, reminding the church that all glory belongs to Him.

- † Protect the unity of the church
- † Remain grounded in the truth
- † God alone deserves the glory

**1 TIMOTHY 3: THREE GROUPS**

*Paul's Pattern: Elders → Deacons → Women Likewise*

Paul presents three distinct groups with parallel qualifications.



DIFFERENT ROLES. SAME MISSION. ONE CHURCH. | ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD.