

05/15/22 Message

Part of Romansthe Life of Faith - the Power of Grace

May 14, 2022

Message: Breaking or Building

Series: Romans

This is our sixteenth and last message in the series Romans: the Life of Faith – the Power of Grace.

As one of Paul's epistles (or letters), Romans is considered the greatest of all his letters. It's been called one of the most foundational documents of Christianity.

Introduction

Paul is ending his letter to the Roman church, and he is emphasizing relationships (relationship with God and relationships with each other). He's also emphasizing the importance of church health (specifically, healthy relationships within the church).

*Why does the Bible talk so much about relationships?
Because our salvation is about a relationship – a
relationship with Jesus – and if we don't get that one
right, all the other relationships in our life don't stand a
chance!*

—Pastor Chad

Let's review some things that Paul said in Romans 15:

- We should be eager to spend time together (v23)
- We should enjoy each other's fellowship (v24)
- We should meet each other's needs (vv25-28)
- We should join in each other's struggles (v30)
- We should pray for each other (v30)
- We should love each other (v30)
- We should encourage each other (v32)

Paul's Relationships

In Romans 16, Paul provides a list of people he wants the Roman church to connect with in one way or another.

He lists:

- Phoebe (v1)
 - a deacon in the church in Cenchrea
 - worthy of honor
 - helpful to many

- Priscilla (v3)
 - a co-worker in the ministry

- Mary (v6)
 - worked hard for their benefit

- Junia (v7)
 - was in prison with Paul
 - highly respected

- Tryphena and Tryphora (v12)
 - the Lord's workers

- Rufus' mother (v13)
 - has been like a mother to Paul

- Julia and Nereus' sister (v15)

Our Relationships

Romans 16:16 (NLT)

Greet each other in Christian love...

Actually, the Greek says, "greet one another with a holy kiss." Jesus used the same language in Luke 7:45 when He said, "you didn't greet me with a kiss..." It's mentioned in 1 Corinthians 16:20, 2 Corinthians 13:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:26, and 1 Peter 5:14. The holy kiss is a physically pure, morally blameless kiss that expresses brotherly (Christian) love, unity, and acceptance.

- We are a FELLOWSHIP of believers joined together through Jesus

We're family! Paul says, greet them like family!

Romans 16:17-19 (NLT)

17 And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them.

18 Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people.

19 But everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong.

As Paul is ending his letter, this is what he wants to leave them with:

- He's begging them to WATCH OUT (v17)
 - for people who cause divisions
 - for people who upset other's faith by wrong teaching(s)
- Satan's target in the church is DIVISION and DISUNITY

We have to remember - Satan is powerless to go up against his real enemy - his real enemy is God. But God has already defeated Satan - Jesus defeated Satan on the cross. Satan's goal is to get you to flip sides... to change your beliefs and to let your changed beliefs change your actions... to turn you against God. If he can win that battle... he hits God where Satan knows it hurts God the most.

—Pastor Chad

Paul's Instructions for Unity

- Strengthen unity, be OBEDIENT (v19)
 - be wise in doing right
 - stay innocent of any wrong

Romans 16:20 (NLT)

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

We are in a battle and have a very real enemy. Our enemy

is not other Bible-believing and Jesus loving Christians. Those people are our shipmates and fellow soldiers. We are in a spiritual battle, and God is ready to crush the work of Satan as we stand united.

—Max Lucado

We have to understand who our real enemy is!

Why is it so hard for us to get - when we fight each other, with our thoughts, with our emotions, with our words, or with our actions - it's God's creation destroying God's creation - and the only one we're hurting in addition to ourselves - is God!

—Pastor Chad

My hope and my prayer is like Paul, I want you to be obedient to God and His Word, be wise in doing right, and stay innocent of any wrong doing. When you do this - you'll build the kingdom, and you'll crush Satan under your feet!

—Pastor Chad

Ending Notes

At the end of Romans 16 we see:

- Tertius actually wrote Romans for Paul. In Paul's day it was common for a professional scribe to write letters. Paul dictated it and Tertius wrote it. Tertius was Paul's amanuensis. It was most likely written on papyrus scroll (a single scroll could be 35 feet long). (v22)
- Verse 24 is missing in many modern translations of the Bible (not because they took it out). The earliest (ancient Greek) manuscripts of Scripture did not include this verse. Does it change anything by leaving it out? No. Verse 24 said, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all." Paul said this is verse 20, "The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you." So, the missing verse (v24) was not a conspiracy; it wasn't a false translation. Leaving it out is actually closer to the earliest manuscripts than translations such as the KJV, NKJV, HCSB, etc. that include it.