

Lessons in Family Dynamics  
November 26, 2023

The gospel makes a family out of all believers---to the glory of God for our own good.

**Introduction:**

Text: Romans 16:1-24

**Big Idea:** The plan for the Gospel is a power-full redemptive movement that starts in heaven and moves from person to person bringing salvation, transformation, and obedience of faith.

**Paul concludes the book of Romans with a \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 16)**

- Family language
- Kind of family – Spiritual/faith family
- 28 people (26 named) listed
  - 26 names 9 of which are female
  - both Jewish and Gentile races
  - different social classes represented from royal families; others likely to be slaves

**#1-Keys to family health: Make each feel \_\_\_\_\_ (1-2)**

- Paul begins with a personal greeting to Phoebe.
  - She was a \_\_\_\_\_
  - She was a \_\_\_\_\_
  - She was a \_\_\_\_\_
- The bible honors the role of women.

**#2-Keys to family health: \_\_\_\_\_ EACH ONE IN THE FAMILY (3-16, 21-23)**

- Each person mentioned has their own unique story.
- You can live your life on two different levels
  - Basis of \_\_\_\_\_ — “I hope people are there to give this to me and do this for me.”
  - Basis of \_\_\_\_\_ — “How can I help you. What can I give, share or do to minister to you?”
    - Philippians 2:1-4

**#3-Keys to family health: PRACTICE \_\_\_\_\_ (17-20)**

- Love people enough to watch out for people who come in and don't love them.
- KEY INSIGHT: *Notice the way* to handle dividers and deceivers (17)
  - Live vigilant of dividers and deceivers
    - those who would divide God's people
    - those who would deceive God's people
    - Once identified “avoid them” [see their motivation and change the relationship]

**Doxology:** Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**Truths to Live By:**

- God values ALL PEOPLE equally and we should welcome them too—REGARDLESS OF RACE, GENDER OR SOCIAL STATUS.

- Out of great calamity comes great opportunity.
- Truth without unity leads to pride; unity without truth leads to a departure from the true gospel itself. Don't be naïve but discerning!

**Connect Card:**

- **What truth will you take away from our study in Romans?**
- **How can we pray for you?**



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

## Table Talk

**Warm Up:** Do you see your self as extra special or ordinary? Why is it significant that 28 ordinary believers are mentioned in Romans 16?

1. Which description of ordinary church members in verses 1-15 particularly strikes you?
2. Why does Paul send so many greetings?
3. Since Paul has never been to Rome how does he know so many people?
4. How does Paul describe Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2)?
5. How does Paul describe Priscilla and Aquila (Romans 16:3-4)?
6. How does Paul describe those who cause division and offences (Romans 16:18)?
7. What is the mode of operation for the false teachers (Romans 16:17-18)?
8. What encouragements are there in the doxology (Romans 16:27)?

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Thank you, Father, for teaching us about the power of the gospel through our study of Romans. Help us as a faith family to live NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL and to declare it BOLDLY.

Works consulted:

*Romans for You*, Tim Keller

*Romans – Galatians*, Yarbrough

*Romans*, Kent

*Romans*, RC Sproul