



Go for God!

The Book of ROMANS

Chapter 16

“Christian Relationships vs. False Religion!”

> Three steps in building strong RELATIONSHIPS:

- STEP #1 – GREETINGS & BLESSINGS! (v1-16)

- Observation: Paul knows and loves the people and applauds their work in the Lord!
(v1-2) Phoebe – A sister, a servant (lit. deaconess), a helper.

(v3-5) Priscilla & Aquila – Fellow workers, willing to risk their lives for others, hospitable in making their house a place for believers to gather and be discipled. (Acts 18:1-3, 24-28)

(v6) Mary – Labored much with us.

(v7) Andronicus & Junia – Fellow prisoners in Christ persecuted yet persevering.

(v8-16) A host of folks – *Beloved, fellow workers, chosen, laborers, brothers and sisters, saints, and purity unveiled with a holy kiss* (which is the kissing of another on the forehead or cheek). (A special note on “Rufus” is found in Mark 15:20-21 - *And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him. Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross.*)

- What would Paul add to your name in greeting you? _____

- In John 13:3-17 Jesus teaches to have the heart of a servant, and by doing so we will be very blessed!

- STEP #2 – PROTECTION & PROMISE! (v17-23)

(v17-19) Protect the church with *sound doctrine*.

- What is doctrine? A body of beliefs about God, man, Christ, the church, and other related concepts considered authoritative and thus worthy of acceptance by all members of the community of faith. Christ condemned the doctrine of the Pharisees because it was of human origin (Matt 15:9; Mark 7:7). By contrast, Jesus' teaching was not systematic and repetitious. It was fresh and new (Matt 7:28; Mark 1:22,27; Luke 4:32). After Pentecost, Christian doctrine began to be systematized (Acts 2:42). Doctrinal instruction was given by special teachers (1 Cor 12:28-29; Gal 6:6) to those who had responded to the gospel (Rom 6:17).

- The earliest doctrine of the Christian church declared that:

(1) Jesus was the Messiah, the Christ (Acts 3:18);

(2) God had raised Him from the dead (Acts 1:22; 2:24,32);

(3) Salvation was by faith in His name (Acts 2:38,16).

- These three truths were presented as a clear fulfillment of the promises of the Old Testament. Paul taught that true doctrine is essential for Christian growth (Eph 4:11-16; 1 Tim 4:6; 6:3; Titus 1:9) and that false doctrine destroys the church (Eph 4:14; 2 Tim 4:3).

(From Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

- Paul exhorted all pastors in 1 Timothy 4:16 - *Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*

- Here's our:

STATEMENT OF FAITH

*“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
(Romans 10:17)*

> **THE TRIUNE GOD** - *We affirm our belief in one God, infinite Spirit, creator, and sustainer of all things, who exists eternally in three persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These three are one in essence but distinct in person and function. (Deut. 4:35; 6:4; Isa 44:5-8)*

> **GOD THE FATHER** - *We affirm that the Father is the first person of the Triune Godhead and the source of all that God is and does. From Him the Son is eternally generated and from Them the Spirit eternally proceeds. He is the designer of creation, the speaker of revelation, the author of redemption, and the sovereign of history. (Gen 1:26; 3:22; Is 48:16; Matt. 28:18–19; Mark 12:29; John 1:14; Acts 5:3–4; 2 Cor. 13:14; Tit 3:4-7; Heb. 1:1–3; Rev. 1:4–6)*

> **GOD THE SON** - *We affirm that the Lord Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity, eternally begotten from the Father. He is God. He was conceived by the Virgin Mary through a miracle of the Holy Spirit. He lives forever as perfect God and perfect man: two distinct natures inseparably united in one person. (Matt 1:22, 23; John 1:1, 2, 14; Phil 2:6, 7; Col 1:15-20; Rom 5:9; Titus 2:13; 1 John 5:20)*

> **GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT** - *We affirm that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, proceeding from the Father and the Son and equal in deity. He is the giver of all life, active in the creating and ordering of the universe; He is the agent of inspiration and the new birth; He restrains sin and Satan; and He baptizes simultaneous to salvation, indwells and sanctifies all believers. We affirm that the Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts to every believer for the edification of the body of Christ and that these gifts are distributed by God's sovereign design. (Mt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 12:11, 18; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Cor. 6:19; 12:13; Eph 1:13; Tit 3:5; 1 Pet 1:2; 1 Cor. 12:1-31)*

> **THE SCRIPTURE** - *We affirm that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, though written by men, was supernaturally inspired by God so that all its words are the written true revelation of God; it is therefore inerrant in the originals and authoritative in all matters. It is to be understood by all believers through the illumination of the Holy Spirit, its meaning determined by the historical, grammatical, and literary use of the author's language, comparing Scripture with Scripture. We believe that God's Word has been preserved in many translations throughout the world (Ps 119:160; Jer. 15:16; Ps 19:7-11; Zech 7:12; Mt. 24:35; John 10:35, John 17:17; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:3-4, 2 Pet 1:20, 21)*

> **CREATION** - *We affirm that all things were created by God. Angels were created as ministering agents, though some, under the leadership of Satan, fell from their sinless state to become agents of evil. The universe was created in six literal days and is continuously sustained by God; thus it both reflects His glory and reveals His truth. Human beings were directly created, not evolved, in the very image of God. As reasoning moral agents, they are responsible under God for understanding and governing themselves and the world. (Gen. 1:1; Gen 1:1-31; Gen 2:1-3; 18-25; Ex 20:11; Ps 90:2; 148:1-5; Is 14:12-14; Ezek 28:12-17; Luke 10:18; Rev. 12:8-10; Gen 3:14,15; Gen 3:1-19; Rom 1:20; Eph 3:9; Ps 8:3; 19:1; Heb 1:3; 11:3; Heb 1:14; Rev 7:11-12; Job 1:6-7; Luke 10:18; Col 2:15; Heb 1:6,14)*

> MAN - We affirm that man was created in the image of God having personality (ability to think, decide and feel). We affirm that Adam, the first man, willfully disobeyed God, bringing sin and death into the world. As a result, all persons are sinners from conception, which is evidenced in their willful acts of sin; and they are therefore subject to eternal punishment, under the just condemnation of a holy God. (Gen 1:26, 27; Rom 3:10-23; Eph 2:1, 2; 2 Cor. 5:17)

> THE WORK OF CHRIST - We affirm that Jesus Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice by the appointment of the Father. He fulfilled the demands of God by His obedient life, died on the cross in full substitution and payment for the sins of all, was buried, and on the third day He arose physically and bodily from the dead. He ascended into heaven where He now intercedes for all believers. (1 Pet. 3:18; Rom. 3:24; 1 Cor. 15:3-5; Rom. 8:34; 1 Jn 2:1, 2)

> SALVATION - We affirm that each person can be saved only through the work of Jesus Christ by faith alone in Him as Lord and Savior. The believer is declared righteous, born again by the Holy Spirit, forgiven of all sin, and assured of heaven. (John 1:12,13; Acts 16:31; Rom 3:21-25; Eph 1:7, 1 John 2:2; 2 Peter 3:9; Eph 2:1, 2; Rom 5:18; 6:23, 2 Cor. 9:15, Tit 3:3-8; Jn. 6:37-49; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38, 39; Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:5)

> SANCTIFICATION - We affirm that the Holy Spirit indwells all who are born again conforming them to the likeness of Jesus Christ. This is a process completed only in Heaven. Every believer is responsible to live in obedience to the Word of God in separation from sin. (1 Cor. 1:2; 6:11; John 17:17; 2 Cor. 3:18; 7:1; Eph. 4:24; 5:25-27; 1 Thess. 5:23; Phil 2:12; 13; Heb. 10:10, 14; 12:10; Rom 6-8; Gal 5:16-24; Eph 4:21-24; 1 John 3:1-3; Eph 5:26-27; Jude 24-35; Father: John 15:2; John 17:17; 1 Thess. 5:23; Christ: Gal 2:20; Eph 5:26-27; Col. 1:22; Heb 13:12; Heb 2:11; Heb 10:10; Holy Spirit: 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom 8:13; Eph 1:17; Rom 5:5; Gal 5:22-23)

> THE CHURCH - We affirm that the universal church is the body of Christ composed of all born again believers. We affirm that a local church is an assembly of baptized believers, under the discipline of the Word of God and the lordship of Christ, organized to carry out the commission to evangelize, to teach, and to administer the ordinances of believer's baptism and the Lord's Table. It functions through the ministry of gifts given by the Holy Spirit to each believer. (Matt 28:18-20; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 1:2; 11:23-26)

> FUTURE THINGS - We affirm that the return of Christ for all believers is imminent. It will be followed by seven years of great tribulation, and then the coming of Christ to establish His earthly kingdom for a thousand years. The unsaved will then be raised and judged according to their works and separated forever from God in hell. The saved, having been raised, will live forever in heaven in fellowship with God. (Rev 20:1-7; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Tit 2:13, 14; Rev 19:11-21; 20:1-15; Mt. 25:46; Jn. 5:28, 29; 11:25, 26; Rev. 20:5, 6, 12, 13)

> WITNESS AND SERVICE - We affirm the responsibility of each believer, motivated by the love of Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to witness for Christ, that the Great Commandment and the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ to give the Gospel to every creature throughout the world are still incumbent on every believer. We believe in the will, power, and providence of God to meet our every need in His service likewise to live sacrificially for the proclamation of the Gospel into the entire world. (Matt 6:33; Matt 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 9:6-8; Phil 4:19)

(v20) In regards to Satan, we are told in Matthew 16:18 - *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock (the rock is, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.") I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

James 4:7 - *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

1 Peter 5:8-9 - *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith,*

Rev 20:10 - *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

(v21-23) Greetings from other believers.

- STEP #3 – LEAVING A LEGACY OF JESUS CHRIST TO ALL!

(v24) Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all! Amen.

(v25) Let's preach the gospel and proclaim the name of Jesus Christ!

(v26) Let's keep reading and studying the prophetic Scriptures for the obedience to the faith!

(v27) God alone is wise, Prov 9:10 - *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."* And may God receive all the glory through Jesus Christ forever!
Amen!

- A dear saint named John H. Sammis wrote the following to inspire our obedience to the faith:

When we walk with the Lord
In the Light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Then in Fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do,
Where he sends we will go—
Never fear, only trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.