



Connect Discussion Guide

04.10.22 Message | Tyler Myers | Romans 16

Key Scriptures:

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

- Romans 16:17–20 (ESV)

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Romans 1:1–7 (ESV)

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.

- Romans 16:25–27 (ESV)

Message Highlights:

- In his letter to the Romans, Paul didn't write a story to just the churches in Rome. God, through Paul, wrote a divine story concerning all humanity.
- Paul lists no fewer than 24 names in Romans 16; a diverse list of people from different gender, racial, socio-economic and spiritual backgrounds.
- There is power in community, and only through Christ can true diversity be expressed in unity and harmony.
- Our faith is deeply personal, but it is not private. We live out our shared faith story in the context of a Christ-centered community on a mission to expand the Kingdom of God.

Conversation Starter:

Barna Research Group recently found that 56% of Christian adults in the U.S. consider their spiritual life to be entirely private. Would you consider this to be true of you as well? What is the difference between a private and a personal spiritual life?

Discuss the Message:

1. Read Romans 16:17–20 and Romans 1:1–7.
 - a) What is the connection between our faithful obedience to Christ and our ability to share the message of Christ with others?
 - b) How can we help each other live in more intentional obedience to Christ?
2. In Romans 16:16, Paul tells the Roman Christians to greet one another “with a holy kiss.” That is a gesture that we don’t really practice in our modern western culture.
 - a) How does such a gesture enhance the bond between the body of Christ?
 - b) Does it matter that we do not practice this type of gesture in our modern culture? Why or why not?
 - c) What are some gestures or expressions that we can practice to express our acceptance and appreciation for those we share Christ-centered community with?
3. Paul urges the believers in Rome to watch out for people who cause divisions and create obstacles to faith (Romans 16:17-18).
 - a) How can we ensure that we never become divisive or create obstacles for others?
 - b) How can we approach one another in love with truth when someone close to us is creating an obstacle to faith?
4. “Everybody needs a group of somebodies...” Think of someone specific who you need to invite into your community.
 - a) How will you connect with them and extend that invitation?

Pray:

Father in Heaven, the only wise God, we thank you for saving us and calling us into your forever family; one Christ, one mission, one community. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to bring about our obedience of faith, that we might live in unity with one another as a testimony of your good grace and enduring faithfulness. To you alone be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.