

Romans 16:1-16

A Band of Believers

Welcome words ...

I. Sundry Greetings

- A. Connections
- B. Commendations
- C. Coordination

II. Kingdom Network

- A. Diversity
- B. Unity
- C. Community

III. Mutual Affection

- A. Worthy Saints
- B. Sister Churches

... sealed with a kiss.

Children, Listen ...

1. Do you think the people Paul mentions helped to make the church at Rome work well?
2. How many members of church should be involved in what the church does?
3. Do you think all the people Paul mentions looked and thought the same way about everything?
4. What was one major thing they all had in common?
5. Why is it important that we greet people in a kind and friendly way?

Sealed with a Kiss

As he begins to close out his letter to the Romans Paul lists an amazing collection of saints in Christ who faithfully serve the Lord in His Kingdom work. This wonderful mix of Jews, Gentiles, women and men of different socio-economic status and age illustrates the diversity of God's church not just in those times in Rome, but throughout history and around the world. When glorifying God with Christ as Lord as the central focus and the advancement of His Kingdom is the glorious vision of His people, differences of race, culture, economy, gender and age are put in their proper place. If that is not the case, something is amiss. One key ingredient to harmonious unity in diversity in the ministry that Paul does not miss is the presence of genuine love among the people of God. His exhortation to greet on another with a holy kiss may be adjusted according to culture, but the essence of it remains the same – if it is “holy” it presumes the presence and sanction of God, it is pure and it is sincere and from the heart. The simple outward act of affection is borne of a genuine love for the saints of God in Christ with whom we have an intimate and holy bond in Jesus. How have you greeted you brothers and sisters in Christ today?