

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

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³ Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴ who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles; ⁵ also *greet* the church that is in their house.

Greet Epaphroditus, my beloved, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia.

⁶ Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you.

⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junias, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

⁸ Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord.

⁹ Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys my beloved.

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¹⁰ Greet Apelles, the approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the *household* of Aristobulus.

¹¹ Greet Herodion, my kinsman. Greet those of the *household* of Narcissus, who are in the Lord.

¹² Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, workers in the Lord. Greet Persis the beloved, who has worked hard in the Lord.

¹³ Greet Rufus, the chosen in the Lord, also his mother and mine.

¹⁴ Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the brethren with them.

¹⁵ Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them.

¹⁶ Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

(Romans 16:3-16)

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Greetings!

Romans 16:3-16

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Greetings!

➤ Observations

1. The emphasis on Christ-centered relationships
 - "in the Lord" (5x); "in Christ" (4x); "beloved" (4x)

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Greetings!

➤ Observations

2. The implied ethnic-social diversity in the church
 - diversity in unity – Jew-Gentile, slave-free, male-female (cf. Gal. 3:28)

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Greetings!

➤ *Observations*

3. The prevalence of women in ministry
 - Paul greets eight (or nine) women, most of whom are noted for their work in ministry
 - *Junias (male) or Junia (female)?*

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Greetings!

➤ *A Female Apostle?*

- “well know *by* the apostles” or “outstanding *among* the apostles”?
- “apostle” in the sense of authoritative spokesmen or the boarder sense of messenger (“one sent”)?

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Greetings!

➤ *Andronicus and Junia(?)*

- they were likely a distinguished “missionary” couple who participated in Paul’s ministry (appointed as “messengers” of the churches)

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Greetings!

➤ *Implications (prevalence of women)*

1. The indispensable value of women in gospel ministry (disciple, witness, priest, worker)
2. Nothing Paul says here conflicts with limitations on some kinds of women’s ministry with respect to men (*i.e. the office and function of an elder*)

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Greetings!

➤ *Abounding in Family Affection*

1. Expression: Holy Kiss
 - an outward, symbolic expression of family love and acceptance

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Greetings!

➤ *Abounding in Family Affection*

2. Foundation: the Gospel
 - our joint-participation in Christ and His saving work is the fountain of our affection for each other

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*We know that we have passed out of death into life,
because we love the brethren. He who does not love
abides in death. (1 John 3:14)*