

XVI

Each One Matters

ROMANS 16:1–16

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae,² that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.

³ Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,⁴ who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well.⁵ Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia.⁶

Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you.⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me.⁸ Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord.⁹ Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys.¹⁰ Greet Appelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobulus.¹¹ Greet my kinsman Herodion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus.¹² Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord.¹³ Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well.¹⁴ Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them.¹⁵ Greet Philologus, 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.

READ | ROMANS 16:1–16

THINK ABOUT

When you read through this chapter, you may have trouble pronouncing all the names. But Paul knew each one of them! As a follower of Christ, he set a great example of knowing, loving, and caring for others. He was grateful for each person and their service to Christ and His church.

Each brother and sister in Christ has purpose. God created them. Jesus died for them. And they have been given the Holy Spirit to do His work. Let's take Phoebe as an example. She served the church at Cenchreae well. She supported the church and Paul financially, and now it is likely that she is the one who carried the letter they were reading.

The rest of the names are people who had been serving in the Roman church. Paul had been encouraged by their ministries, including a husband and wife team named Prisca and Aquila. It must have meant much that Paul acknowledged them!

APPLY

You matter as well! When you were adopted into God's family, you became His son or daughter. You were given talents and gifts to use for His glory and His kingdom.

Don't take for granted that He made you and has a purpose for putting you on earth (Psalm 139:13–16). God also knows all the details of your life. He knows your name and your needs — even the very hairs on your head (Matthew 10:30).

Not only does He care about you, He cares about the others around you — your friends, your family, and even strangers that you will meet.

ASK

Have you made the decision to become part of God's family? If so, when? If not, what is holding you back?

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If Paul wrote a letter to the church at Calvary, what would he say about you and your service to Christ and His church?

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If you were giving someone counsel, how would you tell them to find their place of service in the church?

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PRAY

Father, I know You created me to enjoy You, know You, and serve You. You are worthy of a life lived in surrender to You. I offer myself as a living sacrifice to You.

Help me to love the church like You do. Give me wisdom to know how to serve and where to serve. Bless our leaders, and help our church to be and make authentic followers of Christ.

PSALM 139:13–16

For you formed my inward parts;
 you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
 my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
 intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
 the days that were formed for me,
 when as yet there was none of them.

MATTHEW 10:29–31

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.



SING

“Do Everything” — *Steven Curtis Chapman*

