

**Reflection Questions:** If Paul were to write to ABC, would he mention me? If so, how would he describe me? Do I love other Christians as Paul did? Is there a fellow-Christian I don't want to greet with a holy kiss? If so, what's between the two of you that needs to be settled? How welcoming am I to other Christians? Do I greet them warmly? Do I put up my defenses clearly stating to leave me alone? Is it hard for me to show affection to other believers? What can I do to grow in this area?



Message #128: *Greetings*

November 19, 2017

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?

*Sermon*  
*Notes*

#### **Quotes to Ponder**

*The apostle's comments about these mostly unknown individuals are all the more poignant because this great apostle takes time to speak so warmly and appreciatively of these "ordinary" Christians, who were as much his brothers and sisters in Christ as Peter, James, John, and the other New Testament notables.*

John MacArthur

*Paul was never, for a moment, a professional Christian.*

Donald Grey Barnhouse

*Let the deacon say to the people, 'let no one have any quarrel against another; let no one come in hypocrisy. Then, let the men give the men, and women the women, the Lord's kiss. But let no one do it with deceit as Judas betrayed the Lord with a kiss.*

Tertullian

*They (early Christians) demonstrated their inward peace by their outward kiss.*

Augustine

*This kiss is a sign that our souls are united and that we banish all remembrance of injury.*

Cyril of Jerusalem

*The challenge of hospitality, both personally and professionally, comes when we are stressed out or tired and we offer it grudgingly. The gift of hospitality comes when we find in the welcoming face of hospitality the welcoming face of God.*

Cornelius Plantinga

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1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convinced you? Challenged you? Confused you?
2. How many people does Paul mention by name in Rome (*Romans 16:3-16*)? What kind of relationship did Paul have with these people?
3. How did Paul come to know and love so many Christians? How can we improve in this area?
4. Which description of ordinary church members in *Romans 16:5b-15* particularly strikes you? Why?
5. What do we learn from the saints of *Romans 16* who exhibited a great deal of humility, serving primarily as helpers, not leaders?
6. How valuable were the women and their ministries in the church in Rome?
7. What does *Romans 1:1-15* teach about Paul's relationship with the church?
8. What characteristics in a friend were important to Paul? What does he

commend these people for?

9. What feelings does Paul express toward his fellow Christians in *Romans 16:1-16*? How is this an example for you?
10. Who were *Andronicus and Junias (Romans 16:7)*? Were they apostles? Explain.
11. Most likely, who was *Rufus (Romans 16:13; Mark 15:21)*?
12. If you were going on a difficult missionary journey, what two people you know would you want to be with you? Why would you choose them?
13. How can we be more connected with one another?
14. Read *Romans 16:16*. Does this mean in order to be obedient to God we should all pucker up? Explain.
15. How does this early church in Rome compare to our church today? In what ways are we the same? Different?