

What's in a Name?

Romans 16:1-16

The church brings glory to God when. . .

- . . . we extend **fellowship** and **aid** to other believers.

vv. 1-2

- . . . we have **unity** in Christ in spite of our **diversity** and backgrounds.

vv. 3-15

- . . . we **proclaim** that the name of Jesus is the **source** of our unity and we **exist** because of him and for him.

v. 16

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. Share inspirational or humorous examples of names or meanings of names that you have seen and heard. What was the significance of names in Jewish and Greek culture at the time of Paul's writing?
2. Discuss the tendency for us to gloss over or pay little attention to lists of names in Scripture. What in this passage has convicted you to look closely at all of God's Word? 2 Tim. 3:16, Why do we hesitate to submit to his Word? Gen. 3:1-5
3. Paul commends Phoebe to the Roman church. Read 16:1-2 and discuss what we know about Phoebe. What is Paul asking the Romans to do for Phoebe?
4. What does servant/deacon mean? Read 1 Tim 3:8-13 in different translations. Do you think from these texts that it is justified to have women serve as Deacons in the church?
5. How can we "commend" believers from other churches? How do we extend fellowship and aid to believers outside our walls?
6. In vv. 3-15, Paul mentions several people. This list included Jews, bondservants, freed slaves and people from the wealthy and ruling class. How does that inspire you to view diversity in the church? Would you rather pursue unity or diversity? How does that compare to our current culture? Acts 18:2, 18, 26; 1 Cor. 16:19; 2 Tim. 4:19; 2 Cor. 8:23; Phil. 2:25; Mark 15:21; Gal. 3:26-29; Eph. 4:1-6
7. Discuss the name of Jesus. Yeshua (or Yehoshua) means YHWH saves. What does "Christ" mean? Matt. 1:21, Acts 4:12, John 14:6. 1 Peter 5:14
8. Read Phil. 2:1-11. Discuss how our unity in the church and identity in Christ are related.
9. In 16:16, Paul asks the church to greet one another with a "holy kiss" and mentions that "all the churches of Christ greet you" What does this tell you about fellowship and unity in the body of Christ? 1 Peter 5:14

MEMORY VERSES: ROMANS 1:16-17

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

