

Home Group RECAP Sheet - "How Then Shall We Live - Pt 3"

Gospel Community

R - REVIEW / Summary from the Sermon

Romans 1:16 tell us the Gospel is the power of God! Outside of Christ himself, nothing in Scripture is said to be the power of God. It's power is the ability to change a life. But the passage also says it is "to the Jew first and also to the Greek." This community aspect of the gospel is seen in Romans 16, where 37 specific people are mentioned; made up of men and women, nobility and slaves, Jews and Gentiles. This is what the true church is supposed to look like — a gospel community.

E - EXAMINE / Take a Closer Look

1. The primary Scripture was Romans 16:1-27, listing the gospel community in Rome. It is the manifestation of the Romans 1:16 passage but also our church's benediction, Romans 15:5-7.
2. It is noteworthy that Paul is able to say something specific about virtually every person greeted in Romans 16. The most common refrain was the expression that recognized these people were "in the Lord."

C - CHAT / Discussion starters

1. Pastor Raphael provided a study sheet that listed 59 "one anothers" in the New Testament. A sampling shows that a gospel community is to "be kind," "be compassionate," "be at peace," "be devoted," "be forgiving," and also not "biting and devouring one another." In what way can these attributes be seen in Paul's commendation of the saints in Romans 16?

A - APPLY / Making connection from thinking to action

1. Paul's most often refrain in Romans 16 was to "greet" these specific individuals, and 16:20 says, "with a holy kiss." This is also echoed in 1 Cor 16:20, 2 Cor 13:12, 1 Thess 5:26 and 1 Peter 5:14. Is this still relevant today? The key word is not "kiss" but "holy." Compare 1 Tim 2:8 where Paul says that he wants the men to pray lifting holy hands. Are men always required to pray with uplifted hands? How might that apply to the "holy kiss?"

P - PRAY / Pray for one another

- ✓ Pray for the strength to "accept one another." Be willing to confess areas where grace is needed to accept those who are quite different from you.
- ✓ Pray for our church to be faithful in our calling of making disciples to the glory of God in a gospel community that looks like the church in Rome described in Romans chapter 16.
- ✓ Close by joining hands and confessing together our benediction from Romans 15:5-7.