

1. Paul chose to give only one commendation in his letter to the church at Rome. He strongly commended his sister-in-Christ Phoebe. He chose to highlight her service to the church at Cenchreae and ask that she be welcomed as someone worthy of respect and love in the Church. He commands that those in Rome would help her in any way she asks and praises her as someone who has supported many in the Church, including the Apostle Paul himself. It is very likely that she was the one who would carry the letter across the world from Cenchraea to the church at Rome.
2. Paul believed and taught that women were never to teach and never to have authority over men in the Church. God does not want women to teach the Word of God or exercise any kind of authority over men.
3. Paul believed and taught that more mature women in the Church were to teach the less mature women to love their family, show Christ-like servanthood in the home, and be submissive to their husbands. God does not want the disobedience of Christian women to cause His Word to be contradicted and ignored.
4. Paul believed and taught that Christian wives must submit to their husbands in every circumstance in the same way that the Church submits to Christ. God does not want wives to teach or have authority over their husbands, especially in, but not limited to, spiritual matters.
5. In conclusion, even though Paul believed and taught that men and women have different roles in the Church, he also believed and taught that men and women have the same value as those who are made in the image of God, who are created to love and serve Jesus Christ through the same message of His work in the Gospel.
6. Prisca, or Priscilla, and Aquila were a husband and wife who are mentioned in many places in the ministry of Paul. It is clear he thought very highly of them and here praises them for risking their own lives to save his. All the churches of the Gentiles were thankful for Priscilla and Aquila as they worked together as a couple to serve the cause of the Gospel. They even hosted a church in their house.
7. Epaphroditus was clearly loved by the Apostle Paul and was the first person to believe in Christ in the whole region of Asia. Paul honored him by pointing this out. Mary, another sister-in-Christ in a similar circumstance as Phoebe, was also honored for her hard work in service to the Church.
8. Paul praises a brother and sister in Christ who had been prisoners with him at one point. This experienced must certainly have brought Paul and them close to each other. Not only were they a friend of Paul's, but were also well known to the other Apostles. He notes that they had become believers before he had as a way of honoring their faith.
9. Paul shows his affection and love for many other believers who would receive this letter in Rome. He mentions all of them by name. He calls many beloved to show his love. He praises the work that they did for Christ. He mentions their chosen status before God. He praises the mother of Rufus for being like a mother to him, as well. Paul clearly was a man who not only held great leadership but also had great affection and passion for the individual people he ministered to.

Pastor Richard Schwartz

“Greet One Another With A Holy Kiss: The Affection Of The Apostle Paul For His Brothers And Sisters In Christ”
Romans 16:1-16

1. The Apostle Paul commands us to and gives us an example of showing affection towards our brothers and sisters in Christ. This can be physical affection, but the example given in this passage is heartfelt affection for the people that Paul loved and cared for in Christ.

Romans 16:1-16

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 Apelles, 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.

1 Timothy 2:11-14

¹¹ Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴ and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

Titus 2:3-5

³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

Ephesians 5:22-24

Pastor Richard Schwartz

“Greet One Another With A Holy Kiss: The Affection Of The Apostle Paul For His Brothers And Sisters In Christ”
Romans 16:1-16

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.