
AMEN Bible Study 2026

“Grace with Names Attached”

Romans 16:1-16

May 7, 2026

Scripture Context

1. The Gospel Creates a Family Identity (vv. 1–2, 13)

“Our sister Phoebe” (v.1)

“Welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints” (v.2)

“A patron of many and of myself as well” (v.2)

“His mother... who has been a mother to me as well” (v.13)

- a. Gospel community is familial, not transactional
- b. Identity in Christ comes before role or usefulness
- c. Ministry flows out of belonging, not earning

2. The Gospel Values Faithful Service (vv. 1–2, 6, 12)

“A servant of the church” (v.1)

“Worked hard for you” (v.6)

“Those workers in the Lord” (v.12)

“Has worked very hard in the Lord” (v.12)

- a. Paul consistently notices effort, endurance, and labor
- b. Most gospel work is hidden, quiet, and unnamed
- c. God deeply values perseverance, not prominence

3. The Gospel Forms Co-Laborers (vv. 3, 7, 9)

“My fellow workers in Christ Jesus” (v.3)

“Our fellow worker in Christ” (v.9)

- a. Ministry is shared
- b. Paul places himself alongside, not above, others
- c. Roles may differ, but everyone serves *in Christ*

4. The Gospel Honors Sacrifice, Endurance, and Tested Faith (vv. 4, 7, 10)

“Risked their necks for my life” (v.4)

“My fellow prisoners” (v.7)

“They were in Christ before me” (v.7)

“Approved in Christ” (v.10)

- a. Suffering and risk for the gospel are to be expected
- b. Long obedience over time matters
- c. Approval that counts comes from Christ

5. The Gospel Redefines Identity Across Every Social Boundary (vv. 7–15)

“My kinsmen” (vv. 7, 11)

“In Christ / in the Lord” (vv. 7–13)

“Chosen in the Lord” (v.13)

“The saints” (v.15)

- a. Identity “in Christ” reshapes every other identity (ethnicity, gender, status, background)
- b. Household structures are transformed by grace
- c. Difference remains, but division does not

6. The Gospel Produces Real Affection and Real Welcome (vv. 5, 8, 9, 12, 16)

“My beloved” (vv. 5, 8, 9, 12)

“Greet one another” (v.16)

“With a holy kiss” (v.16)

- a. Paul expresses explicit affection
- b. Christian love is meant to be felt and expressed
- c. Holiness sanctifies affection

AMEN Action Steps

“Grace with Names Attached”

Romans 16:1-16

HEAR the Word

“Open my eyes, that I might behold wonderful things out of your law.”
-Psalm 119:18

1. As you read Romans 16:1–16, what words or phrases does Paul repeatedly use to describe people? What do these phrases tell us about what Paul values in Christian community?
2. Paul takes time to name and honor ordinary believers, many of whom we know little about. What does this section reveal about how the gospel moves from doctrine to real life?

PRACTICE the Word

“...Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”
-Matthew 7:24

1. Paul highlights faithful service that is often hidden, quiet, and unnamed. Where has God entrusted you with ordinary, unseen faithfulness (in your home, work, church, or relationships), and how do you tend to view those places?
2. The gospel creates family before it assigns roles. Where are you tempted to measure your worth by usefulness, productivity, or recognition rather than by your identity in Christ?

RETELL the Word

“Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you...”
-Mark 5:19

1. Who is one believer whose faithful service you see but who may not often be thanked or noticed? How could you honor, encourage, or affirm them this week by name?
2. Think of someone who views Christianity mainly as beliefs, rules, or church attendance. How could Romans 16 help you explain that the gospel creates a people and a family, not just personal convictions?