



PART 58

IT TAKES A TEAM

ROMANS 16:1-16

I NEED A _____ TEAM

Romans 16:1-6, *I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, 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. Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, 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. Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia. Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you.*

Romans 16:7, *Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me.*

- ✳ **Apostle** | apostolos: sent, an ambassador, one commissioned
- ✳ **Translation 1: Well Known To The Apostles (esv)** | They served so well that they were known and respected by the 12 Apostles.
- ✳ **Translation 2: Outstanding Among The Apostles (nasb, niv)** | They were exceptional apostles.

Romans 16:8-15, *Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys. Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobulus. Greet my kinsman Herodion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus. Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord. Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well. Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them. Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them.*

TO CONSIDER:

- ✳ **If the Apostle Paul needed a team, what about me?** If I made a list of my team, who would be on that list? Who should be on that list? What will I do to expand my spiritual team and grow in my relationship with them?

I NEED A _____ TEAM

PAUL'S TEAM REPRESENTS A DIVERSITY OF:

1. **Race:** Some of the names are Jewish, Latin, and most are Greek.
2. **Class:** Some are affluent, have estates, are slave owners, or slaves, or freedmen.
3. **Sex:** Nine of the twenty-six people listed are women.

Romans 16:1, *I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, 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.*

- ✳ **I Commend** | sunistao: to set together, introduce, approve.
- ✳ **Phoebe most likely delivered Paul's letter to churches in Rome**, but the Roman Christians had never met her, so she needed Paul to commend her to the Romans.
- ✳ **Patron** | prostatis: benefactress; this typically referred to a person of high social status who came to the aid of others, especially foreigners and immigrants, by providing housing and financial aid and by representing their interests before local authorities.

WHAT KIND OF DIAKONOS WAS PHOEBE?

- ✳ **Servant** | diakonos: a waiter, someone who serves others, to help, minister, to take care of others (see examples in John 2:5; Romans 13:4; 15:8).
- ✳ **View 1:** She Was A Servant: she used her giftings and wealth to serve others.
- ✳ **View 2:** She Was A Deacon: these officers worked alongside the elders and focused on meeting the material and physical needs of others.

Acts 6:2-3, *And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty."*

WHO CAN BE A DEACON?

- ✳ **View 1:** Only Men Can Be Deacons. (See Acts 6; 1 Timothy 3:12)
- ✳ **View 2:** Both Men & Women can be Deacons.

TO CONSIDER:

- ✳ Paul had a diverse team, and I need a diverse team too. In Christ, our differences become a source of strength to glorify God, serve others, build up each other, and reach our world for Christ.
- ✳ How diverse is my spiritual team? Who might I invite into it, thereby creating a team that more accurately reflects the Body of Christ?

I NEED A _____ TEAM

Romans 16:16, *Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.*

- ✳ Paul calls four people "beloved". He didn't just have people on his team who could help him in his ministry efforts, but he deeply cared for his teammates. He loved them.
- ✳ Paul wanted this diverse group of believers to rid themselves of any socially constructed pride and divisiveness, and to treat one another as loving members of the same family. It was a radical demonstration of radical love.

TO CONSIDER:

- ✳ How many believers do I consider "beloved"? Have I told them recently?
- ✳ How might I express my love to those on my spiritual team this week? What are some new (for me) ways that I can demonstrate the radical love of Christ to them?