



What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?

Key Takeaways:

1. Every believer matters to God and has a role in the body of Christ. There are no "nobodies" in God's family.
2. The gospel creates radical unity across all human divisions. Economic status, ethnicity, gender, and social position are transcended by our identity in Christ.
3. Meaningful relationships require consistent presence. You cannot build deep Christian community by showing up sporadically or only when convenient.
4. Faithful service often goes unnoticed by people but is always seen by God. Many of the people Paul mentions are unknown to history except for this passage, yet God knows them intimately.
5. We need each other. The "me and Jesus" approach to faith is not biblical. We were created for community and need skin-and-bones relationships.

Discussion Questions:

1. Before this sermon, had you ever read Romans 16 closely? What surprised you most about this chapter? Romans 16 comes after 15 chapters of deep theology. Why do you think Paul ended this theological masterpiece with a list of names?
2. Look at the diversity of people mentioned: Phoebe (a deacon), Priscilla and Aquila (a ministry couple), Tertius (a former slave), Erastus (a city treasurer). What does this tell us about God's kingdom?
3. Nobody is a nobody in the family of God. Have you ever felt like a "nobody" in church or in life? How does Romans 16 speak to that feeling?
4. Paul describes various people by their service. How does this challenge our modern view of significance and success?
 1. Phoebe: "a servant... a benefactor of many"
 2. Mary: "worked very hard for you"
 3. Tryphena and Tryphosa: "worked hard in the Lord"
5. How did "you can't have close friendships if you never leave your house" and the philosophy that "me and Jesus" is enough challenge the way you do life? How do you respond to this? Where do you see individualism affecting your faith?

6. Priscilla and Aquila served together as a couple. They disciplined Apollos, hosted a church, and "risked their necks" for Paul.
 1. For married couples: How can you serve together more intentionally?
 2. For singles: Who could you partner with in ministry or service?
7. Tertius was born a slave and given a number instead of a name, yet Paul let him add his personal greetings to this letter. What does this reveal about the gospel's power to restore dignity and identity?
8. The gospel "doesn't just decimate the ceiling that keeps us from reaching God. It tears down the wall between all of us." What "walls" still exist in our church or Christian community? How can we actively work to tear them down?
9. We build deep relationships by showing up. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your consistency in "showing up" for church, small group, or Christian community? What barriers keep you from showing up more consistently? What's one practical step you can take this week to "show up" better?
10. Review the different roles people played in Romans 16. Which role most resonates with your gifts? How are you currently using those gifts? How could you use them more?
 1. Servants/Deacons (meeting practical needs quietly)
 2. Disciple-makers (like Priscilla and Aquila)
 3. Hard workers (like Mary, Tryphena, Tryphosa)
 4. Hosts (like Gaius)
 5. Encouragers (like Rufus's mother)
11. The sermon emphasized greeting "one another with warmth." Who in this group or in our church:
 1. Do you need to greet more warmly?
 2. Might be feeling like a "nobody" who needs to be seen?
 3. Could you intentionally connect with this week?

Practical Applications:

1. Commit to attending church and/or small group for the next four weeks without exception (barring genuine emergency). Notice how consistency affects your relationships.
2. Identify one practical need in your church or small group this week and meet it without announcing it or seeking recognition.

3. Identify someone newer in the faith or younger in life and intentionally invest in them this week —invite them for coffee, offer to pray with them, or share your story.
4. This Sunday, arrive 10 minutes early and intentionally seek out three people —especially someone who might feel like a "nobody" or someone you don't usually talk to.