

February 22nd, 2026

Reframing Church
Romans 16:1-16

TALK IT OVER

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me. Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.
Romans 16:1-4 (NIV)

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

Can you think of a favorite childhood memory, a tradition, or a funny/awkward family moment from when you grew up?

Seeing the Church Differently: After hearing Romans 16 described as Paul's *family album*, what—if anything—challenges or reshapes how you think about the church?

People vs. Preferences: The message said, *"Prioritize people instead of protecting preferences."* Where do you most feel the tension between holding your preferences and loving people well—at church, at home, or in your broader community? What helps you stay gracious when those preferences are challenged?

Expanding the Table: Jesus welcomed people who were very different from Him—and from one another. Who might God be inviting you to "make room for" right now—someone you might naturally overlook, avoid, or feel uncomfortable with? What would it look like to take one small step toward them this week?

Quiet Service and Hidden Faithfulness: Romans 16 honors people who "worked very hard in the Lord" without recognition. Where are you currently serving in ways that feel unseen—or where do you see others serving quietly? How does knowing that God sees hidden faithfulness change how you view service?

Our Church's Family Album: If someone looked at the "family album" of our church five years from now, what would you hope they would see about how we loved, served, and welcomed people?

The gospel reframes the church as

a _____ being shaped by grace.

OVERVIEW: Paul's Family Album

- A Church of Diverse Voices
- A Church of Diverse Backgrounds
- A Church of Diverse Social Classes
- A Church of Diverse Spiritual Generations

Consider these takeaways from Paul's "family album":

1. Prioritize _____ instead of protecting _____.
John 17:1-20

2. Enlarge your _____ instead of erecting _____.

The gospel shows us that we can hold our convictions and still _____.

3. Celebrate _____ instead of centering _____.
Mark 10:43



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a diverse community being shaped by grace.*

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Consider these takeaways from Paul's "family album":

1. Prioritize people instead of protecting preferences. John 17:1-20
2. Enlarge your table instead of erecting walls.
*The gospel shows us that we can hold our convictions
and still hold people well.*
3. Celebrate service instead of centering celebrity. Mark 10:43

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