



## REDISCOVERING REAL LOVE IN THE FAMILY OF GOD

# "We are in the People Business"

"What is God's Ambition for Your Church?"

Romans 16:1-16

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1048.

In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.

Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com

### REVIEW:

1. Ambitious servants of Christ proclaim Christ, prioritize God's Call, persist in service to God, and prevail in heartfelt prayer.
2. All of us know we need to pray more than we do!
3. Prayer is a struggle—involves agony; Prayer should be specific (protection, provision and power); Prayer steadies us (peace).
4. "Failing here, in the place of prayer, we fail everywhere." – Leonard Ravenhill



Leonard Ravenhill's gravestone in Garden Valley, Texas.

## What is God's ambition for your Church?

Paul gives us holy principles to remember:

### 1. We are in the \_\_\_\_\_ business.

**Romans 16:1–16, HCSB** - <sup>1</sup> *I commend to you our sister Phoebe* [a dear friend], *who is a servant of the church in Cenchreae* [Seaport city that served the maritime needs of the larger city of Corinth]. <sup>2</sup> *So you should welcome her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints and assist her in whatever matter she may require your help. For indeed she has been a benefactor of many—and of me also.* <sup>3</sup> *Give my greetings to Prisca and Aquila* [also dear friends], *my*

*coworkers in Christ Jesus,* <sup>4</sup> *who risked their own necks for my life. Not only do I thank them, but so do all the Gentile churches.* <sup>5</sup> *Greet also the church that meets in their home. Greet my dear friend Epaphroditus, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia.* <sup>6</sup> *Greet Mary, who has worked very hard for you.* <sup>7</sup> *Greet Andronicus and Junia* [relatives of Paul], *my fellow countrymen and fellow prisoners. They are noteworthy in the eyes of the apostles, and they were also in Christ before me.* <sup>8</sup> *Greet* [my other friends] *Ampliatius, my dear friend in the Lord.* <sup>9</sup> *Greet Urbanus, our coworker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys.* <sup>10</sup> *Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus.* <sup>11</sup> *Greet Herodion, my fellow countryman. Greet those who belong to the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.* <sup>12</sup> *Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, who have worked hard in the Lord. Greet my dear friend Persis, who has worked very hard in the Lord.* <sup>13</sup> *Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother—and mine.* <sup>14</sup> *Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them.* <sup>15</sup> *Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them.* <sup>16</sup> *Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send you greetings.*

**Four reasons God bothers to use precious space in His written revelation for these greetings:**

- A. It shows us God cares about individuals and knows them by name—God deeply loves people.**
- B. It shows us God keeps records on His people, noting the areas in which they have given faithful service.**
- C. It shows us that people of all backgrounds (i.e. race, social status, education) are equally important.**
- D. It shows the importance of family affection.**

**Romans 16:16, HCSB** - <sup>16</sup> *Greet one another* [lit. "all"] *with a holy* [the use of the word "holy" here serves to denote that Paul intended it as an expression of "Christian" affection; and to guard against all improper familiarity and scandal] *kiss.* [This command is mentioned four times just in Paul's writings; it was not culturally the custom of the Greeks or the Romans to be physically affectionate (Romans would grasp the forearm); Paul seems to want more for the church than a handshake; he reaches for more of a Jewish custom here; "Kiss" translates Gk: φιλημα (*fee-la-ma*); it's root is *philos* meaning "friend" (non-romantic). In Greek, Roman and Jewish culture, the kissing on the lips was a romantic action. **This 'holy kiss' in v. 16 is specifically non-romantic but affectionately expressed between followers of Christ.**]

### Life Application Section

- A. Is there a Christian friend you don't want to greet with a holy kiss—*deal with it!***
- B. Is there a Christian friend you need to greet with a holy kiss—*go do it!***