

## Romans 16: A boring list of names...?



### Overview:

This final chapter of Romans reminds us of Paul's big messages from earlier in the letter. He reminds us to keep the gospel central (v17-20 and v25-27) and, through the names and greetings elsewhere in the chapter, paints a picture of the diverse "allsorts" church that he wants to see built in Rome.

**Part One: Allsorts church** - By greeting these different people (male and female, Jew and Greek, slave and free) together and honouring each one, Paul breaks down the barriers that existed (and still exist) between different groups in society. We particularly looked at the male and female divide, and finished with thinking about the "holy kiss" and how this phrase gives us some clues about how we can relate in a godly way, despite our differences.

**Part Two:** We reminded ourselves of the mission that we're on - joining with Paul and the early church to see the gospel to continue to spread around the world. We also looked at the unique role and opportunities allsorts churches get to play in this. Finally, we finished with what happened next for the Roman church. History shows us that despite lots of opposition, they persevered and built the church that Paul was calling them to, seeing lots of people from all sections of society, saved and added. Therefore, as Gateway, let's go and do likewise!

### Questions and activities

1. How does being an "all-sorts" church help our mission of sharing the gospel?
2. While talking about a "holy kiss", David described the impact of both words, "holy" and "kiss". How do these words help us to understand the way we can welcome each other?
3. Next Sunday, we have our International Welcome events, in both morning and afternoon. What are likely to be the new students' feelings in this situation? How can we best serve and welcome them?
4. Are there people in the group who could be hosts for the meals after these events? Please encourage people who haven't yet done so to sign up as hosts (through Churchsuite, or contact Elizabeth Legendre if you don't have access to Churchsuite).
5. Pray as a group for the international Welcome events and the host meals afterwards. Pray for many to be attracted to the Lord as a result of these events, for good friendships to be made, and for new students to come to our regular international students evenings:
  - Introduction to Jesus Christ and the Bible (10-week course, starting Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September)
  - Lifethoughts (weekly small group from Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September).