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GRACE
CHANGES EVERYTHING



WEEK 18 | The Company You Keep

PRAYER

Loving God, as we conclude this magnificent book of Romans, we thank you that through it, we have learnt about the power of the Gospel, the beauty of your saving grace, the power of a mind and life renewed by your Holy Spirit, and how to love our neighbour as you have first loved us. We ask that you would show us who you are, calling us to walk alongside you in a relationship, that we may glorify you in our unity and collaboration, and in seeing your Kingdom come. In Jesus' name, Amen.

From [Prayer Knowing Jesus](#)

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

Apart from your immediate family, name the person who you are closest to in relationship. What are two things you love about them?

NOTES

WORD

¹⁷ I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. ¹⁸ For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. ¹⁹ For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. ²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

[ROMANS 16:17-20](#)

²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God, be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

[ROMANS 16:25-27](#)

The Apostle Paul concludes his letter to the church at Rome by sending loving greetings to his friends and supporters there.

1. Phoebe from the church at Cenchreae - to be helped because she has been so supportive of the servants of God like Paul ([vs 1-2](#)).
2. Prisca and Aquila - risked their lives by serving Gentile churches ([vs 3-4](#)).
3. Epaphroditus - first Asian to convert to Christ ([vs 5](#)).
4. Mary - working hard for the church at Rome ([vs 6](#)).
5. Urbanus and Stachys - fellow workers.
6. Appelles and Aristobulus' family - approved in Christ.
7. Herodian and Narcissus' family - kinsmen.
8. Tryphaena, Tryphosa, and Persis - beloved and hard working.
9. Rufus - chosen of the Lord. Rufus' mother - was like a mother to Paul.

Paul goes on to warn against those who may try to cause divisions because they either follow other doctrines, or they deceive the hearts of the naive (vs 18). Paul makes it clear - he avoids the ones who cause obstacles and submit to their own appetites, but he chooses to associate with those who are serving, hard working, and willing to risk their lives so that others may walk with Jesus.

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = not at all; 10 = always), how would you rate your ability to recognise people who will become your good friends? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. Do you think God likes your friendships?
3. Would you consider those who are in your life as good, godly influences? Whether yes or no, explain why you may have answered this way.
4. How might we build relationships and friendships with those who are wise? Do you know people in your life whom you'd consider wise?
5. Would you consider yourself strong in the Lord right now? Why or why not? How might you give glory in your life to the God of all strength?
6. Have you put your trust in God with your life and relationships? Would you like to receive the gift of life, found in forever walking with God? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYER