

God's Heart For People
Romans 16

Notes:

Paul shares God's heart for people. He looks past the externals of gender, culture, custom, country, language and prioritizes the shared connection in Christ.

Notice the names. There are 26 names of individuals in Rome. Paul has never been to Rome but with his investment in the lives of people, he has good relationships with people in Rome already. That's 26 names plus a Church, two households, a mother, some brothers, and some saints. That's a lot of people.

Stop & Consider: *How are you doing at getting to know the names of those who attend your Church?*

Paul shares God's concern for unity.

The theme of unity runs as an undercurrent from Romans 12-16 and is loudly proclaimed in chapter 14. This theme of unity builds throughout the letter and culminates with a crescendo of names as Paul models what he preaches.

Paul shares God's desire for God's glory to be made known.

There are two great doxologies in Romans, and they can be found in 11:33-36 and 16:25-27. The doxology in Romans 16 reveals why he preaches the gospel, plants Churches, labors for Christ and why he wrote this letter.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:3-6