

Paul's Friends

I. One the greatest things we possess in our life are our friends

A. Our friends are those with and for whom we do the things of God

1. To live life friendless is the saddest of realities

- a. David had friends (1 Samuel 30:26)
- b. Daniel had friends (Daniel 2:13)
- c. Jesus had friends (John 15.13-15)
- d. Paul had friends (Acts 24.23)

II. Paul's Friends & Their Qualities

A. Romans 16:1-21

1. Phoebe

- a. **Romans 16.1-2:** "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea; 2 that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well."

b. Qualities

- a. "A servant of the church"
- b. "Commendable"
- c. "A helper of many"
- d. "Un-prejudicial"

2. Prisca and Aquila

- a. **Romans 16.3-4:** 3 "Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, 4 who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Also greet the church that is in their house."

b. Qualities

- (1) "Workers in Christ"
- (2) "Neck-riskers"
- (3) "Reputable"
- (4) "Hospitable"

3. Epaphroditus

a. **Romans 16.5:** "...Greet Epaphroditus, my beloved, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia.

b. Qualities

- (1) "Lovable"
- (2) "Radical"
- (3) "Multi-Cultural"
- (4) "Faithful"

4. Mary

a. **Romans 16.6:** "Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you."

b. Qualities

- (1) "Hard working"
- (2) "Unselfish"

5. Andronicus & Junias

a. **Romans 16.7:** "Greet Andronicus and Junias, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

b. Qualities

- (1) "Reformation Minded"
- (2) "Team Minded"
- (3) "Uncompromising"
- (4) "Stand-outs"
- (5) "Rank-able"

6. Ampliatus

a. **Romans 16.8:** "Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord."

b. Qualities

- (1) "Lovable in the Lord"

7. Urbanus

a. Romans 16.9: “Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ...”

b. Qualities

(1) “Worker in Christ”

(2) “Supportive”

8. Stachys

a. Romans 16.9: “... and Stachys my beloved”

b. Qualities

(1) “Lovable”

9. Apelles

a. Romans 16.10: “Greet Apelles, the approved in Christ...”

b. Qualities

(1) “Excellent”

(2) “Accurate representation”

10. Family of Aristobulus

a. Romans 16.10: “... Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus.”

b. Qualities

(1) “Honoring of Heritage”

11. Herodion

a. Romans 16.11: “Greet Herodion, my kinsman...”

b. Qualities

(1) “Willing to sell all for Christ”

(2) “Unbound by inaccurate past/heritage”

12. Narcissus

a. **Romans 16.11:** "...Greet those of the household of Narcissus, who are in the Lord."

b. Qualities

- (1) "Follows Christ at all costs"
- (2) "Not intimidated by peer pressure"

13. Tryphaena & Tryphosa

a. **Romans 16.12:** Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, workers in the Lord..."

b. Qualities

- (1) "Non-Competitive"
- (2) "Barrier breakers"
- (3) "Sharing"

14. Persis

a. **Romans 16.12:** "Greet Persis the beloved, who has worked hard in the Lord..."

b. Qualities

- (1) "Humble"
- (2) "Hard worker"
- (3) "Accurate priorities"

15. Rufus

a. **Romans 16.13:** "Greet Rufus, a choice man in the Lord..."

b. Qualities

- (1) "Chosen"
- (2) "Secure"
- (3) "Unashamed"

(a) **Mark 15.21**

16. Rufus' Mother

a. **Romans 16.13:** "...also his mother and mine..."

b. **Qualities**

(1) "Longevity"

(2) "Nurturing"

17. Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and Brethren

a. **Romans 16.14:** "Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the brethren with them."

b. **Qualities**

(1) "Love of education"

(2) "Relationally balanced"

18. Philologus & Julia and Nereus & Sister and Olympas

a. **Romans 16.15:** "Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them."

b. **Qualities**

(1) "Love of family"

(2) "Open"