



BE GENUINE IN CHRISTIAN UNITY

Romans 16:17-27

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*"... walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, **2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3** eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." **Ephesians 4:3***

The believers of all the early churches of Christ enjoyed deep fellowship and partnership the world has no way of understanding. They were believing Jews and Gentiles, wealthy and poor, free and slave, famous and unknown. So Paul finishes the letter with his last words with a caution against harmful teachings and practices that undermine the truth of Christianity, which is its greatest threat.

READ, Romans 16:17-27

*"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. **21** Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen. **22** I Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord. **23** Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you. ... **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."*

1. Genuine LOVE Warns Others about SIN and HARM. (v 17-20)

- Claiming Unity in CHRIST is to Be Unified in and by GOD'S WORD.
- False Teaching is not to be DEBATED but DENOUNCED. (v 17-19)
- God's Word Gives a PROMISE of DELIVERANCE.
- SATAN is the source of all "EVIL" that will be crushed by the GOD of PEACE.

"The man replied, "It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it." **13** Then the Lord God asked the woman, "What have you done?" "The serpent deceived me," she replied. "That's why I ate it." **14** Then the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild. You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live. **15** And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Genesis 3:12-15

"Now may the God of peace—who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood—
21 may he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen." **Hebrews 13:20-21**

2. Genuine PRAISE to God is the RESULT of Jesus Christ's WORK in Us. (v 25-27)

- The GOSPEL has power to EDIFY
- The REVELATION of God was a MYSTERY

"When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, **5** which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. **6** This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

Ephesians 3:4-6

- FAITH and OBEDIENCE is among the NATIONS

"... we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations" **Romans 1:5**

- WISDOM of God is visible in REDEMPTION

"This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, **12** in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him."

Ephesians 3:11-12

The book of Romans shares that God, being just in his judgment and wrath toward sinners, poured his wrath out on Jesus for us. Christ alone justifies and gives us peace with God. Believers once were dead in sin, but now are made alive in Christ, even though we struggle, we have victory in Jesus. We are no longer condemned, but we are called, we are justified and will be glorified in the fullness of God's love. We are a new Israel, the true church who will be with our God forever. Believers are to represent Christ in how we live as Christians as we carry out the missional task to see faith and obedience come among all the nations.