



## Romans 16:1-16

Building Good Relationships in Church | November 23<sup>rd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Warm-up:** Have you ever had a nickname? Which one was your favorite? Which was your least favorite?

- Names are important because people matter to God. In **John 10:3**, Jesus calls His sheep by name. They are unique and precious to Him. In **Romans 16:1-16** you hear Paul's heart for the people in his life. These believers spanned a variety of social and economic backgrounds, yet each was precious to God (and Paul) and used for the gospel's advancement.
  - From this section of Scripture (or from George's sermon on Sunday), what strikes you about Paul's specific knowledge of so many people?
- Roughly one third of the 28 names listed in **Rom. 16:1-16** are women. Phoebe, we see in **16:1-2**, was highly praised by Paul and was likely entrusted with the incredible task of carrying the letter to the **Romans** some 600 miles (from Corinth to Rome). All 9 of the women listed in this passage are commended for their hard work.
  - Why is Paul's praise of women in this letter so significant?
  - Hard work is central to living in Christ's family - the Church. In what ways do you personally get excited about working hard unto the Lord through The Shoreline Church in the coming year?
- For more than 200 years the first Christians met not in buildings but in homes. Very similar to your *Life Group*, these small churches relied upon the hospitality and generosity of everyone involved.
  - Rate yourself on a scale of 1 - 10. To what degree do you currently see your own home as a center for gospel activities?
  - In what ways do you sense the Holy Spirit may be asking you to use your home more?
- Just like Paul, the husband and wife team of Priscilla & Aquila used their work life of making tents (See **Acts 18:1-3**), as a place and vehicle through which to honor God and do ministry.
  - Do you see your job as a logical place to honor God and be on mission for Him? What are the challenges you face there and how do you sense the Holy Spirit may want to use you there?

**Wrap-up:** As we head into Thanksgiving, who are the people you want to verbally acknowledge and praise God for in this season of life?