

Be Nice, Be Alert, Be Good

1 Corinthians, Vol. 38

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1 Corinthians 16:10-24

Family reunions are eclectic gatherings of people of all ages who probably would not be together except for the family connection. Church is kind of like that. This book closes with instructions for behaving properly when the Family of God gathers together. It tells us how to get along within the family of God. Decorum, respect and maturity should be obvious when we are together.

I. **Be Nice** (10-12)

Specifically, Paul wanted the Corinthians to be nice **to Timothy**, who was on his way to Corinth.

1 Corinthians 16:10: *Now if Timothy comes, see that he is with you without cause to be afraid, for he is doing the Lord's work, as I also am.*

See 1 Timothy 4:12 and 2 Timothy 1:6-7.

1 Corinthians 16:11: *So let no one despise him. But send him on his way in peace, so that he may come to me; for I expect him with the brethren.*

1 Corinthians 16:12: *But concerning Apollos our brother, I encouraged him greatly to come to you with the brethren; and it was not at all his desire to come now, but he will come when he has opportunity.*

Maybe Apollos was too busy, or maybe he didn't think that time was appropriate for him to visit.

II. **Be Alert** (13-14)

These two verses are a five present tense imperatives, which means they are commands for establishing life patterns of ongoing behavior.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14: *Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.*

Be on the alert

Stand firm in the faith

Act like men

Be strong

See also 2 Timothy 2:1

Let all that you do be done in love

III. **Be Good** (15-24)

1 Corinthians 16:15-16: *Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints), that you also be in subjection to such men and to everyone who helps in the work and labors.*

Be in subjection to such men uses the same word usually translated **submit**. *Hupotassō* means *to arrange yourself under*. **Such men** broadens this from only the situation with Stephanas in Corinth, to all spiritual leaders in all churches.

Hebrews 13:7, 17: *Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. . . . Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.*

1 Corinthians 16:17-18: *I rejoice over the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have supplied what was lacking on your part. For they have refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.*

1 Thessalonians 5:12–13: *But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.*

1 Corinthians 16:19: *The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.*

Aquila and Prisca are the courageous Jewish Christian couple that served with Paul. We're told they even risked their lives for Paul. There are two mentions in the New Testament of a church in their home, here and Romans 16. **Prisca** is the same name as **Priscilla**, like Julie and Jules or Jennifer and Jenny.

1 Corinthians 16:20: *All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.*

All the brethren refers to everyone in the church at Ephesus who had any connection to the church in Corinth, but it's probably also a general greeting from one church to another.

Holy kiss. This was a non-sexual culturally-accepted way of greeting with affection.

1 Corinthians 16:21: *The greeting is in my own hand—Paul.*

Paul normally used an amanuensis to whom he dictated his letters, and then he signed them personally.

1 Corinthians 16:22: *If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed. Maranatha.*

Love:

Accursed is the word *anathema*.

Maranatha is a one-word prayer “**Our Lord, Come!**” See also Revelation 22:20.

1 Corinthians 16:23-24: *The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

What should be your takeaway from this passage? What might the Holy Spirit be teaching you or convicting you about?

Be nice.

Be alert.

Be good.