



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### INTRODUCTION

Paul begins this final chapter of Romans by commending his fellow-worker Phoebe, who carried the letter to the Roman church. He moves on to mention many in the church who have worked hard for the gospel and commands them all to greet one another and to avoid false teachers. Paul closes out the letter with a doxology that revisits the themes he began the letter with (Romans 1:1-15, 16-17).

### MAIN POINT

The gospel is the basis for unity in our churches. It unites diverse people around the common goal of giving glory to God and making him known among the nations.

### READ

Romans 16:1-27

### REFLECT

We learn from 16:1-16 that the Roman church was highly diverse in terms of race (Jew and Gentile), class, and gender. Paul also seems to be introducing many of them to each other, indicating that he was addressing separate groups of Christians. As he goes through this list of names, how does he promote unity in this diverse group of believers?

What are the defining characteristics of false teachers (vv. 17-20), and how does Paul instruct the Romans (and us) to respond to them? What makes false teaching so detrimental to unity? In Christian service, when are you tempted to act in ways that serve your own interests rather than God's?

In verse 25, Paul says that the God "is able to strengthen [or "establish", NIV] you" through the gospel. The idea here is not conversion but rather continuing and maturing in our faith. The gospel is obviously necessary for coming to faith (1:16-17). Why is it necessary for our growth in holiness and for unity in our churches?

Who this week can you commend for their hard work for the gospel?

### MEMORIZE

Romans 16:20 – "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

