

INSIGHTS ON ROMANS: THE CHRISTIAN'S CONSTITUTION

LOVE AND KISSES

ROMANS 16:1–16



The Heart of the Matter

Open and unguarded displays of affection are becoming increasingly rare in Christian circles. There are some wonderful exceptions, but they are few. In our touch-me-not, keep-your-distance culture, we can easily become isolated entities fenced on all sides by various boundaries of formality and cool professionalism. Unfortunately, churches are not immune. And when we ape our society, the consequences are dreadful: we begin to model an independent lifestyle of serious and efficient employees in a corporation instead of an affectionate and caring body of loving believers. In this unique section of Scripture, we discover the softer and gentler side of the brilliant and disciplined apostle Paul. Here he was overtly affectionate—to the point of admonishing his readers to *kiss* one another. It will be our joy in this lesson to find a biblical basis for affectionate love that is both authentic and demonstrable.



Discovering the Way

1. A Reminder of the Value of Affection (Romans 12–15)

Time after time in the latter portion of Romans, Paul encouraged Christians to express their love and affection for one another in demonstrable ways.

2. A List of Observations (Romans 16:1–16)

A passage full of names, titles, and greetings, here we see that the body of Christ has variety in unity, servants in obscurity, esteem in humility, and love in simplicity.

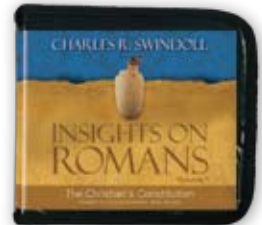


Starting Your Journey

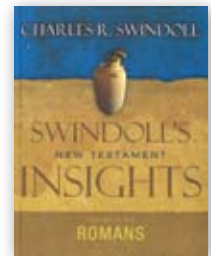
In light of this passage, commit to adopting the ABCDs of authentic affection among Christians: accept the variety, become a servant, cultivate esteem for others, and demonstrate your love to God's people.



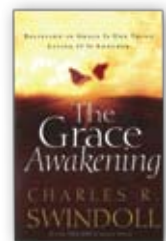
Tools for Digging Deeper



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