

REDISCOVERING REAL LOVE IN THE FAMILY OF GOD

"We are in the Protection Business"

"What is God's Ambition for Your Church?" Romans 16:17-20

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1049.

In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.

Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com

REVIEW:

1. We are in the PEOPLE business because God is in the PEOPLE business.
2. God deeply loves people; God keeps a record to reward faithful service; and People of all backgrounds are equally important to God.
3. Family affection is vitally important—*Holy Kiss!*
4. The "holy kiss" is specifically non-romantic but sincerely and affectionately expressed between followers of Christ.

What is God's ambition for your Church?

Paul gives us holy principles to remember:

1. We are in the people business. (Review)fs
2. We are in the _____ business.

STUDY VERSE SECTION - Romans 16:17–20, HCSB - ¹⁷ Now I urge you [Gk: παρακαλέω (Para-ka-LAY-oh) in the indicative mood means "to implore" or "to comfort") brothers, to watch out [a present infinitive, "keep on watching out for"] for those [inside the church] who cause dissensions [Prov. 6:16, 19, list the "Seven Things that are Detestable to the Lord" and one of them is "a man who stirs up dissension among his brothers"] and obstacles [Gk: σκάνδαλον (sk-AN-da-lon) Eng: scandal] contrary to the doctrine you have learned. Avoid them [Gk: ἐκκλίνω, (eck-LEAN-oh) means "to avoid" or 'stay away from'], ¹⁸ for such people do not serve our [but another] Lord Christ but their own appetites [KJV: "whose god is their belly"]. They deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting with smooth talk [Gk: χρηστολογία (crest-oh-low-GEE-ah), lit., "good words but bad motives"] and flattering words. ["They're only in this for what they can get out of it, and aren't above using pious sweet talk to dup unsuspecting innocents." (YLT-P)] ¹⁹ The report of your obedience has reached everyone. Therefore I rejoice over you. But I want you to be wise [lit., an expert] about what is good, yet innocent [lit., untainted] about what is evil! ["not even beginners in evil" (PME); "simpletons in evil" (NEB)]. [Observation: God doesn't want us to be naïve about doctrine, but He does want us to be innocent about evil.] ²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

The Protection of the Church is Our Business

1. The Plea for **OBSERVATION.**

Romans 16:17a, HCSB - ^{17a} Now I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause dissensions and obstacles contrary to the doctrine you have learned.

Romans 16:17a, NLT - ^{17a} And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught.

2. The Call to **SEPARATION.**

Romans 16:17B–18, HCSB - ^{17B} ...Avoid them, ¹⁸ for such people do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites. They deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting with smooth talk and flattering words.

Romans 16:17B–18, NLT - ^{17B} ...Stay away from them. ¹⁸ Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people.

"It is better to divide over truth than to unite around error."

- Edward John Cornell

3. The Need for **WISDOM.**


Romans 16:19, HCSB - ¹⁹ The report of your obedience has reached everyone. Therefore I rejoice over you. But I want you to be wise about what is good, yet innocent about what is evil.

Romans 16:19b NLT - ^{19b} ...I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong.

Romans 16:19b, TLB - ^{19b} ...I want you always to remain very clear about what is right and to stay innocent of any wrong.

4. The Thrill of **ANTICIPATION.**

Romans 16:20, HCSB - ²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.



Until the Lord returns, we must be wise to mark and avoid those would divide us with selfish motives or false doctrines.