

TOGETHER “in Christ”

In Romans 16, Paul uses the phrase “in Christ” or “in the Lord” eleven times to describe more than thirty different people who were active in the early church. The actions of these individuals display what it means to live fully for Christ. If you ever question what your place is in the kingdom of God, please consider the following five statements.

We _____ the _____ in Christ.

We _____ as _____ in Christ.

We remain _____ when _____ in Christ.

We _____ the _____ in Christ.

We are _____ in Christ.

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

1. What does it look like to “guard the gospel” in your daily life? Can fellow Christians count on you to protect them from the arrows of Satan? How many people can you trust with truth?

Digging Deeper

2. The word “approved” is used 7x in the NT (Rom 14:18; 16:10; 1 Cor 11:19; 2 Cor 10:18; 13:7; 2 Tim 2:15; James 1:12). In your moment of testing, how does God strengthen you?
3. Read Matthew 25:31-46. How do you view “the stranger” in your life? Do you avoid people who are needy (thirsty, hungry, homeless, prisoners)? Do you have anyone in your life that is in a mess, or do you try to keep everything neat all around you?
4. The “holy kiss” was special to the early church because many of them were outcasts from their families because of their new faith (Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Thess 5:26; 1 Pt 5:14). This affectionate act expressed love and unity. Even though we don’t welcome each other with kissing at church, what are other forms of “godly embrace” we practice?

Applying the Word to Life

5. Who are your “co-laborers” in Christ? Do you have others around you working hard with you to accomplish things for the kingdom of heaven? If you can’t think of anyone, then now is the time to reach out to Central and ask how you might be able to get involved to serve in a deeper way.

Spend time this week working through “God’s sovereignty” in your life. Just as God chose Rufus’ dad (Simon) out of a crowd to carry Jesus’ cross, God has also chosen you out of a crowd to do His work. What has God called you to do?