



Romans 16: 3, 5-16 (NIV)

Greet Priscilla and Aquila...

⁵ *Greet also the church that meets at their house. Greet my dear friend Epenetus...* ⁶ *Greet Mary, who worked very hard for you.* ⁷ *Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me...* ⁸ *Greet Ampliatus, whom I love in the Lord.* ⁹ *Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys.* ¹⁰ *Greet Apelles, tested and approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus.*

¹¹ *Greet Herodion, my relative. Greet those in the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.* ¹² *Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, those women who work hard in the Lord. Greet my dear friend Persis, another woman who has worked very hard in the Lord.* ¹³ *Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too.* ¹⁴ *Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the brothers with them...*

¹⁶ *Greet one another with a holy kiss.*

Paul ends several of his letters this way:

Greet all God's people with a holy kiss.

1 Thessalonians 5:26 (NIV)

All the brothers and sisters here send you greetings.

Greet one another with a holy kiss.

1 Corinthians 16:20 (NIV)

Greet one another with a holy kiss.

2 Corinthians 13:12 (NIV)

Even Peter writes:

Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

1 Peter 5:14 (NIV)

A "holy kiss" was a way of showing love, acceptance and hospitality. It is what Jesus said the church should be known for.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:35 (NIV)

This theme is repeated throughout the New Testament.

Are you doing anything remarkable if you welcome only your friends? Everyone does that!

Matthew 5:47 (GW)

Let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them and show it by our actions.

1 John 3:18 (TLB)

In response to all God has done for us, let us outdo each other in being helpful and kind to each other and in doing good.

Hebrews 10:24 (TLB)

...through love serve one another.

Galatians 5:13 (ESV)