Peace and Unity

During our nearly year-long study of Romans, we have gone deep into many of the topics/theology Paul raises. Among them were:

- Nature of faith
- Idolatry
- Wrath
- Sin
- Repentance
- Evil
- Righteousness
- Hope
- Grace
- Obedience
- Servanthood
- The Law
- Predestination
- Covenant
- Mercy
- Work(s)
- Promises
- Sacrifice and worship
- Love

In our final segment of Romans, Paul's concern is peace and unity

Ordination question required of all elders/preachers:
  Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Read 15:7-16:27 (p 1767)

Remember, Paul had never been to Rome

What concerns him as he concludes this letter?
- Acceptance of each other (15:7)
- The acceptability of the Gentiles to God (15:15)
- Taking too much credit (15:18)
- There are more Gentiles to reach (15:20-21)
- Getting relief to Jerusalem (15:25-27)
- Being stopped by unbelievers and gifts rejected (15:31)
- Divisions within the church (16:17-19)

Why do these issues bother Paul? What does this say to the Christian church in the world today?

Chapter 16 – part of the original or not?

What do you notice about the list of names in the greeting as to gender?
  What should we take away from that in regards to peace and unity?

15:26-27 – "For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them."

  ➔ What do we owe? To whom?

Re-read 16:25-27 – the final doxology
   How does this passage sum up the whole letter?

Prologue

- Paul does make it to Rome, but not how he envisioned (Acts 27-28)
- Arrested in Jerusalem after crowd attempted to stone him
- Several trials before Sanhedrin, Roman officials before sent to Rome
- On arrival in Rome, Paul was allowed to live alone, but with a guard
- Acts 28:31 – Stayed two years in a rented house in Rome and preached
- Nothing in Acts tells us what happened in the end
- Tradition: Beheaded by sword anywhere between 62 and 67 AD, believed to have been done outside Rome's city walls