Sermon Growth Guide

Author: Suzanne Gradin

OF WOMEN AND MEN | Romans 16:1-7

October 18, 2026

Key Verse: Romans 16:7 - "Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was."

Big Idea: Women and Men had leadership in the early Church.

Foundations

This week we start a new theme, "In the Company of Friends."

This passage comes at the end of the book of Romans, right after Paul has wrapped up his upcoming plans. He has just finished talking about his hope and prayer of being refreshed together with his friends. As he thinks of his Roman friends, he sends greetings and also sends his commendation of Phoebe. Paul is both making and strengthening connections among the believers. These friendships were not just helpful and encouraging – they also brought a witness to unbelievers as to how the body of Christ operated. The Church was a living example of what it meant to live out the beauty of Galatians 3:28, which says, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Friendship is important. Ministering together is important. As Pastor Tim reminds us, preaching the resurrection, each of us telling others of Jesus is crucial. Paul does not shy away from his greetings, from our singular purpose, or giving honor where it is due. Today's sermon pointed out that the early church had many women in influential positions. What a legacy, to know that these women followed God's call on their lives. Paul was in community with women and men who were passionate and committed to make sure that the world knew of Jesus Christ.

Understanding God's Word

Together, read Romans 16:1-7.

Paul has a list of people he's grateful for – people who have supported him, encouraged him, even risked their lives for him. Paul is very aware of the team that surrounds him. Is there anything or anyone that surprised you in this list?

Applying God's Word

We live in a fairly independent culture. But in this passage, Paul acknowledges and encourages those that influenced him – even those he's indebted to. He recognizes his friends. Who has been on your 'team'?

Paul specifically calls out the women that he is grateful for. Are there women that you can acknowledge?

Witnessing God's Word

Both the Apostle Paul and Jesus actively ecouraged women. We live in a culture where, unfortunately, the worldwide Christian Church is sometimes thought as being 'against' women. What can you do to change that trajectory?

Pastor Tim reminds us that the Bible tells us to honor women. What does this look like for you?