"SALUTE ("GREET") ONE ANOTHER WITH A HOLY KISS" (Romans 16:16)
"THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST GREET YOU"

INTRODUCTION

(v3 – 15) approximately 30 people and households are requested to be "greeted."

The phrase is mentioned 4 other times in the NT: (1 Corinthians 16:20;   2 Cor. 13:12-13;
1 Thessalonians 5:26;   and   1 Peter 5:14)

In the midst of this Corona-19 pandemic: we are changing customary forms of "greeting."
We wear masks, practice "social distancing," however, we want to remain social and "greet."
With our computers, we face-time, zoom, text, e-mail, face-book, etc.,   and
we continue to call, write, to stay in touch or salute.

The words of our text outline today's lesson:

1. **"Salute" ("greet")** -   to speak or contact with expressions of friendliness; to welcome.

    Note that we are able to "salute" one another when not in their presence.
    (v16) "The churches of Christ salute you"
    (v21-23) Paul lists those with him when writing send a "salute" to those in Rome.

    The emphasis of the text is that we are to "salute one another" and not live in isolation.

2. **"One another"** -   I may not be able to salute all; however, I hope all are saluted.

    After a worship assembly, it's difficult for one to greet all in attendance, and for me, too,
    when I'm standing at the exit door.

    It's always appropriate (and important) for Christian's to "greet one another."

3. **"With a ... kiss"** -   Paul notes one of the customs of the times (culture).

    Paul is not making this form of greeting a commandment, and he emphasizes "salute"
    throughout the chapter.

    Another form of greeting is in (Galatians 2:9) " ... they gave me and Barnabas
    the right hand of fellowship ... "

    It would be odd to meet one another and not give a greeting: high-5, thumbs up, hug, wave,
    shake hands, fist bump, elbow bump, head nod, tip the cap, salute, pat the back,
    and/or use our words to say, "Hi."

4. **"With a holy kiss"** -   whatever the greeting, make it sincere, appropriate, and pure.

    Also, take into account the manner in which others prefer to be greeted.
    Not everyone appreciates a bear-hug (there may be an unexpressed reason for a preference.).

CLOSE: whether in the assembly or apart, reach out and "greet one another."