

Romans 16:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Salute Urbane, our helper in Christ, and Stachys my beloved.

Analysis

Salute Urbane, our helper in Christ, and Stachys my beloved—Aspasasthe Ourbanon ton synergon hēmōn en Christō kai Stachyn ton agapēton mou (ἀσπάσασθε Οὐρβανὸν τὸν συνεργὸν ἡμῶν ἐν Χριστῷ καὶ Στάχυν τὸν ἀγαπητόν μου). Urbanus is synergon (συνεργός, co-worker)—same word used for Priscilla-Aquila (v. 3), Titus (2 Corinthians 8:23), Timothy (Romans 16:21), and even God (1 Corinthians 3:9, 'we are God's fellow-workers'). En Christō (in Christ) roots the partnership in shared identity and mission. Stachys receives the affectionate agapēton mou (my beloved), indicating close personal friendship.

Historical Context

Both names (Urbanus, Stachys) appear in imperial household inscriptions, suggesting possible connection to Caesar's staff. Philippians 4:22 mentions 'saints in Caesar's household'—believers among slaves, freedmen, or officials serving the emperor. Christianity penetrated all social strata: aristocrats (Erastus, city treasurer, v. 23), artisans (Priscilla-Aquila, tentmakers), slaves (Ampliatius, Urbanus). This social diversity was revolutionary, creating communities transcending class, ethnicity, gender—'neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female' (Galatians 3:28).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to be '*synergos en Christō*' (co-worker in Christ)—how does union with Christ shape partnership in ministry?
2. How does the diversity of Paul's co-workers (slaves, artisans, aristocrats, Jews, Gentiles, men, women) challenge homogeneous church cultures?
3. Who are your 'co-workers in Christ'—and how do you cultivate deep friendships rooted in gospel partnership?

Interlinear Text

ἀσπάσασθε	Οὐρβανὸν	τὸν	συνεργὸν	ἡμῶν	ἐν	Χριστῷ
Salute	Urbane	G3588	helper	our	in	Christ
G782	G3773		G4904	G2257	G1722	G5547
καὶ	Στάχυν	τὸν	ἀγαπητόν	μου		
and	Stachys	G3588	beloved	my		
G2532	G4720		G27	G3450		

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