

**“Protecting Christian Love and Unity”
(Romans 16:17-20)**

In the midst of extending greetings to the believers in Rome, Paul gives a passionate warning to the church to protect their love and unity from false teachers that are sure to come. He does this by exhorting them (and us) to. . .

Be Cautious (17-18)

- With Alertness (17)
- With Discernment (18)

Be Careful (19)

- Protect Testimony
- Pursue Truth

Be Confident (20)

- In God’s Victory
- In God’s Grace

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Small Group Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: Share about a situation in which you had to take extra measures of caution.

1. Paul exhorts his readers to avoid those who are contrary to the apostles’ doctrine. What does he mean by “avoid them” – i.e., what might that look like in our day?
2. What are some “smooth talking” groups today that could be harmful to the welfare of a Bible-believing church?
3. Paul mentioned that he is glad for their testimony of “obedience.” What can we do in our church to reinforce a testimony of obedience?
4. How can we follow Paul’s encouragement to “be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil”?
5. What does Paul tell them (and us) about Satan? What should be our attitude and strategy toward Satan?

Small Group Prayer

Include a prayer for our church (and each of us) to maintain both sound doctrine AND a spirit of love and unity. Both are essential.

Digging Deeper:

What do each of the following passages tell us about false teachers and how to handle them: Matt 7:15-20; Acts 20:28-31; Gal 1:6-9; 6:12-14; Phil 3:17-19; 2 Cor 11:2-4, 12-15; 2 Tim 3:1-7; 2 Pet 2:1-3, 10, 14, 19.