

Through this series we'll be working our way through the Biblical letter of Romans. We'll explore themes of forgiveness, freedom, hope and grace.

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FORGIVEN&FREE



Title: Insert title

Date: 30th July 2023 **Speaker:** Toby Skipper **Site:** City Centre / Mile Cross

Bible reference: Romans chapter 16

Overview

What do we mean by culture? Some examples might be; the things we create, the values we live by, the language we speak, the words we use, the traditions we follow and the stories we tell. Every people-group, work-place, family and church has a culture; and each of us cultivates and contributes to that culture, sometimes subconsciously (we just go with the flow) and sometimes consciously (For example, we might intentionally go against the flow in order to bring change). So, what does a healthy church culture look like? There may be more, but here are seven hallmarks from Romans 16 to get us started.

- 1. An honouring culture (12:10; 16:1)
- 2. A loving family culture (16:2 & 13)
- 3. A diverse culture (Slaves, free, rich, poor, Jews, Gentile)
- 4. A connected (to other churches) culture (16:16, 21-23)
- 5. A sacrificial serving culture (16:2, 3, 6, 12)
- 6. A discerning culture (16:17-18)
- 7. A Christ centred culture ("in the Lord/Christ" at least 10x)

Some questions to explore...

- Where/and in whom do you see these hallmarks being lived out in church life? Maybe spend some time giving thanks for those you're grateful to God for.
- Which of these do you think we're strong in?
- Which of these do you think we need to give attention to?
- How can each of us continue to cultivate healthy church culture?
- Maybe spend some time praying into the different hallmarks, asking for God's grace to keep growing in these areas.