

# Family TableTalk

Conversation 81

## Fully Accepted

read

*Romans 16:22*

think

This short verse, tucked away at the end of the book of Romans, can seem insignificant at first glance. Compared with the deep truths found throughout the rest of Paul's letter, this is a verse that many of us may have breezed past. However, there are incredibly rich insights contained in these few words.

The name "Tertius" simply means "third." Scholars tell us that this reflects a common practice of how slaves were identified, labeled and viewed in the roman world. Tertius was a slave, born with not enough value to even deserve a name. He was simply the third slave bought or born to his master. Culturally, he was barely considered human and was viewed as an object or resource to be used. Yet, in this verse we learn that he has the important job of transcribing Paul's words. It was through his hard and dedicated work that the inspired words of the book of Romans were shared with believers and passed on to us. Furthermore, he sends his greetings "in the Lord," indicating that he was a fully accepted and significant member of the early church.

The radical power of the gospel changed everything for Tertius. It united him with the family of God and empowered him to serve and work for Christ. All of us, especially the next generation, need to be reminded that we are fully accepted, have incredible worth because of Christ's sacrifice, and have a role to play in building God's Kingdom right now!

apply

- What are some words you'd use to describe your value, worth and identity?
- How can you embrace your position and purpose in Christ like Tertius did?
- What parts of your past experiences hinder you from living into what God has for you right now? What past experiences help you live into that calling?
- How can you share the empowering and unifying message of the gospel with the people God has placed in your life this week?

pray

Father, thank you for the radical good news of Jesus. Regardless of what the world has said about us, or how our worth and value have been defined, we have the opportunity to find belonging and purpose in you. Help us to see ourselves in light of this truth. Help us to especially see the dignity and value in others. Let our interactions be characterized by such unity and encouragement that the world would take notice for your glory!

**by Josh Good**

Josh Good oversees resource development, mentoring and church partnerships with Christian Endeavor. Learn more about the resources they have available at [www.ceworks.faith/resources](http://www.ceworks.faith/resources). Josh co-hosts Christian Endeavor's podcast, [Unleash the Hive](#).

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