

The Holy Kiss

Rom. 16:16

I. Introduction

- A. Regarding the passages for the holy kiss there is not mention of culture or tradition

II. Different Types of Kisses In The Bible

- A. The Kiss Of Family Greeting (Gen. 27:26-27; Gen. 29:13; Lk. 15:20)
- B. The Kiss Of Apostasy (1 Kgs. 19:18)
- C. The Kiss Of Seduction (Pro. 7:12-13)
- D. The Kiss Of Passion (Song 1:2)
- E. The Kiss Of Betrayal (Pro. 27:6; Mk. 14:44-45; Lk. 22:48)
- F. The Holy Kiss (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Ths. 5:26; 1 Pet. 5:14)

III. What Is The Holy Kiss?

A. Definitions

1. Salute & Greet

- a. Same Greek word *aspazomai*
- b. Thayer – *“To salute one, greet, bid welcome, wish well to”*

B. Holy

- 1. Thayer – *“pure, sinless, upright, holy”, “such a kiss is a sign of the purest love”*

C. Kiss

- 1. Thayer – *“a kiss”, “the kiss with which, as a sign of fraternal affection, Christians were accustomed to welcome or dismiss their companions in the faith”*
- 2. The holy kiss is a form of greeting often used by NT Christians
- 3. This is still customary in Eastern cultures

IV. Is The Holy Kiss An Exclusive Greeting?

A. Law of Harmony, based on principle God cannot lie

- 1. Greetings Without Being Present (Php. 4:21-22; Col. 4:14)
- 2. Greeting By Name (3 Jn. 1:14)
- 3. A Written Salutation (1 Cor. 16:21)
- 4. Right Hand of Fellowship (Gal. 2:9)
- 5. By Embracement (Acts 20:1)
 - a. Embrace is same Greek word as greet or salute

V. Is The Holy Kiss Binding Today?

A. An Item of Worship?

- 1. Of the passages describing the holy kiss or kiss of charity not one of them mention the holy kiss as an act of worship
- 2. The contextual setting for all the passages fails to apply such a command to the worship services

3. In order for an item to be a part of worship we must know when and how to perform the action
 - a. Example – Lord’s Supper
 - i. When? (Acts 20:7)
 - ii. How? (Mk. 14:22-23)
 - b. Example – Singing
 - i. When? (Heb. 2:12)
 - ii. How? (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)
- B. Any Time, Any Where?
 1. If the holy kiss is not an item of worship then when should it be practiced?
 2. Any time or anywhere two Christians meet?
 3. We only have one example of Christians in the NT practicing the holy kiss, and this sets the standard for when we are to practice the holy kiss today (Acts 20:36-38)

VI. Mode or Manner?

- A. Mode – greet with a physical kiss
- B. Manner – greet in a holy manner regardless the mode (kiss, handshake, hug, words, etc...)
- C. Since the Bible mentions various forms of greetings, the holy kiss is not exclusive, then it must be the manner which is emphasized
- D. Paul is not adding a new command, kissing was already in practice and had been for several years, he is merely regulating the manner it is to be done