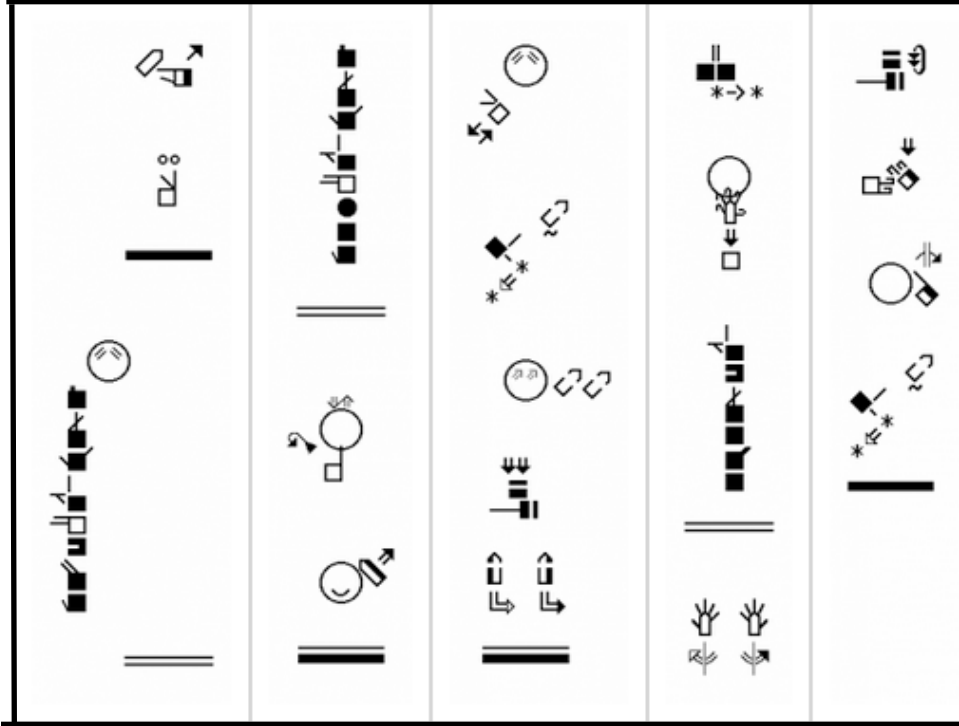


HOW TO SALUTE

12 Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who labour in the Lord. Salute the beloved Persis, which laboured much in the Lord.

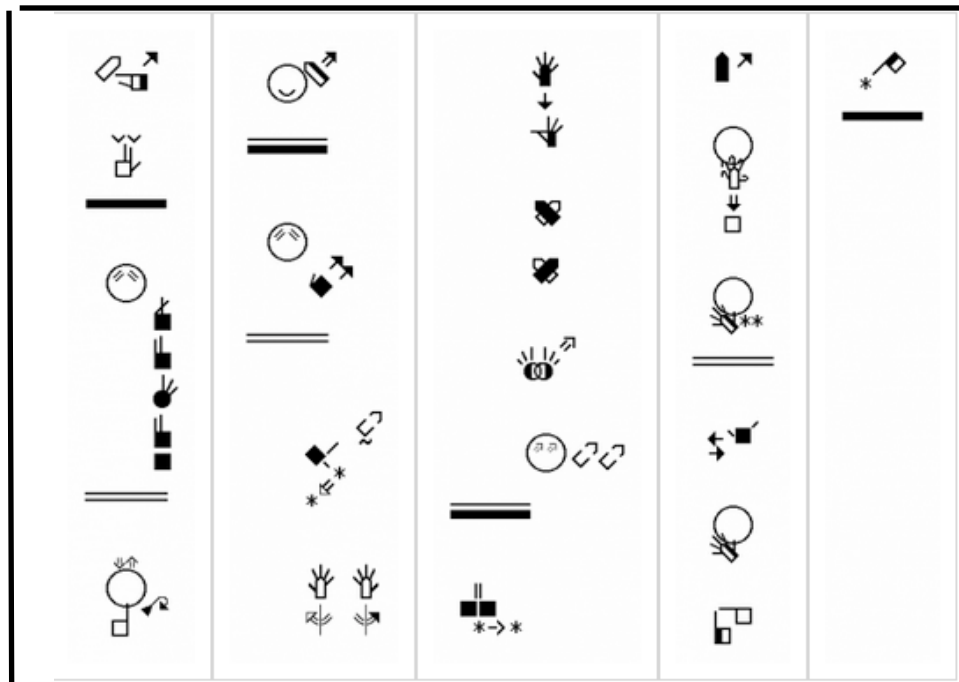


The first thing we learned in the Marine Corp was saluting. In that organization it meant respect. In the Church it means more than that. It also means love and affection. And there is a proper way to "salute."

Probably the Christian salute and foot washing set Christians apart from almost any other religion.

Our special greeting not only recognize our brother and sister's

13 Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

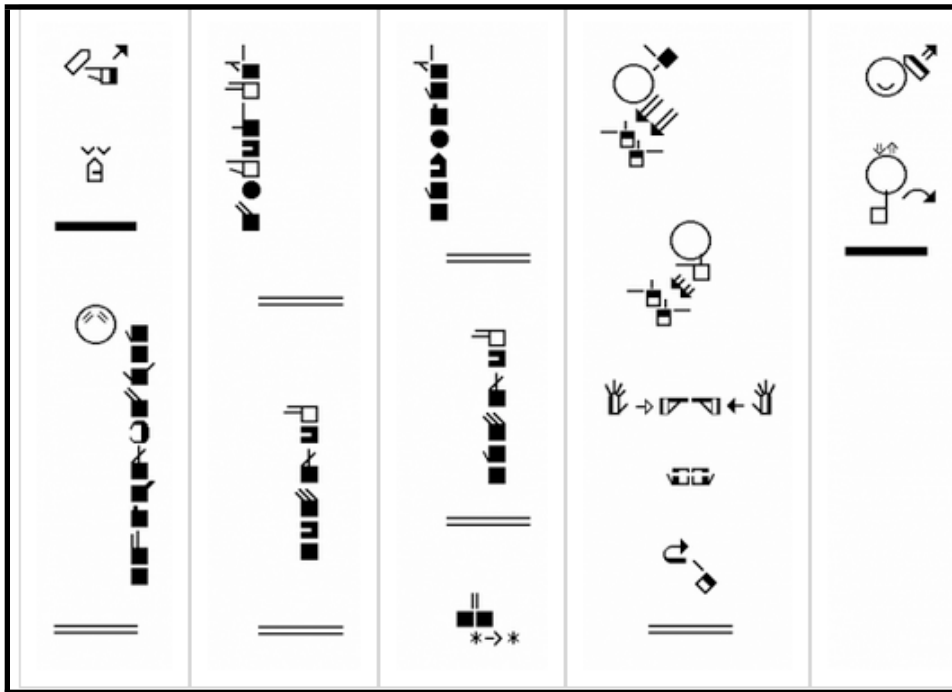


status but our own position in relationship to other Christians: affectionate servants. Note the tender terms Paul uses with each name.

Suppose these brothers had been quarreling? Wouldn't their consciences be pricked?

We cannot allow our spirituality, our emotions, words, or actions to be dependent on how others treat us.

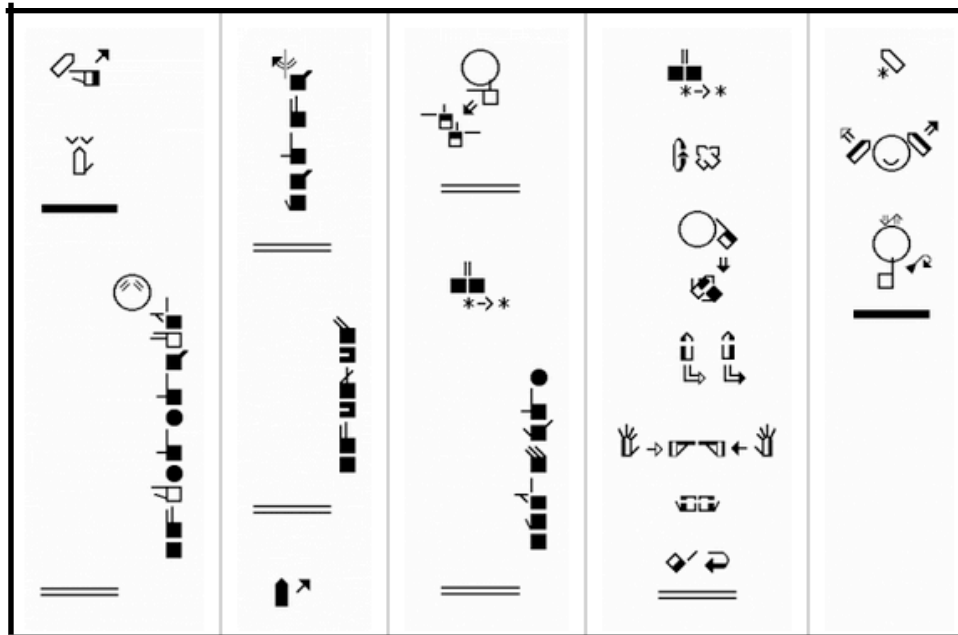
14 Salute Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren which are with them.



Every culture possesses some type of expression to show respect: curtsy, bowing, walking backward, hand salute, looking down, special words, etc. Paul encouraged the Christian salute.

Every tender term Paul employs shows the closeness there should be among us. Laborer: recognition of hard work, saint: calling someone what they truly are in Christ, brother and sister:

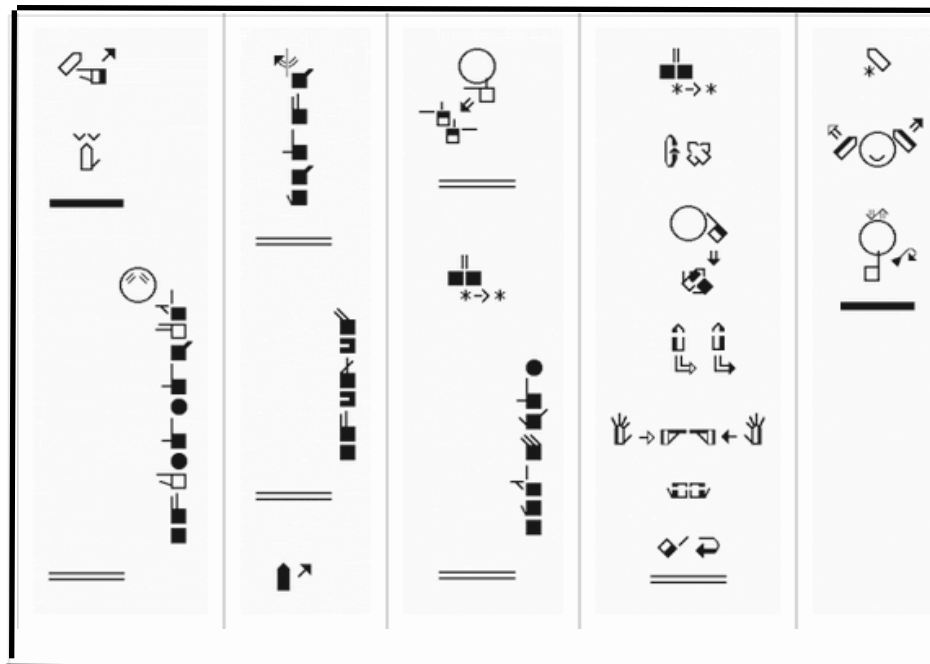
15 Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints which are with them.



showing that we are family, beloved: meaning I can't love you more, and mother: that Paul too was the recipient of another person's tender love.

We Americans with our technology have forgotten deeply how much we need other people. We have forgotten what it is just to touch someone, be in the same room, help with a problem. As Christians we can

16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.



make those things happen again.

It can be reignited with holy kisses and loving service.

This has always been the power God has given us to heal the world.

There are so many things that can make us feel inadequate and unimportant, but many a relationship can begin to heal with a sincere holy kiss.

It is not the size of our company that makes us feel love but the warmth of another Christian's love.

There are four places in the New Testament that refer to the “holy kiss”—Romans 16:16;1 Corinthians 16:20;2 Corinthians 13:12; and1 Thessalonians 5:26. In each instance, the Greek words denote a kiss which is sacred—physically pure and morally blameless. It was a common custom in most nations for people to kiss each other at meeting or parting to display their love, sincere affection, and friendship for each other. The kiss is called "holy" to distinguish it from a sexual one and from a hypocritical and deceitful one, such as Joab gave to Amasa (2 Samuel 20:9) or such as Judas gave to Jesus when he cried, “Hail Rabbi,” and betrayed Him into the hands of His enemies (Matthew 26:49).

In New Testament times, the holy kiss was a sign of greeting, much like the modern handshake. For Christians, it further expressed brotherly love and unity. The holy kiss was especially precious to the new believers during the early church years, because they were often outcasts from their own families because of their new faith. These new believers gloried in the new spiritual kinship they had found among other Christians. Furthermore, the holy kiss from a Jewish Christian to a Gentile believer was evidence that the Gentiles were accepted fully into Christian fellowship, despite the teachings of the Judaizers, those who would return to the Mosaic law as their source of justification. So prominent were these false teachers in the early church that they even temporarily drew such a prominent Christian as Peter into their web of deceit (Galatians 2:11-13). The holy kiss between the Jewish and Gentile believers was done righteously in recognition that all believers are brothers and sisters in the family of God.