

Restored Relationship

CHRIST DIED FOR SINNERS, MAKING RECONCILIATION
WITH GOD POSSIBLE FOR ALL.

Romans 5:1-11,18-21

1 Therefore, **A** since we have been justified by faith, we have **peace with God** **B** through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2** We have also obtained access through him by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we boast in **the hope of the glory** **C** of God. **3** And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces **endurance**, **D** **4** endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. **5** This hope will not disappoint us, because **God's love** **E** has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. **6** For while we were still **helpless**, **F** at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For rarely will someone die for a just person—though for a good person perhaps someone might even dare to die. **8** But God proves his own love for us in that while **we were still sinners**, **G** Christ died for us. **9** How much more then, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from wrath. **10** For if, while we were enemies, we were **reconciled to God** **H** through the death of his Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. **11** And not only that, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received this reconciliation. [. . .] **18** So then, as through **one trespass** **I** there is condemnation for everyone, so also through one righteous act there is justification leading to life for everyone. **19** For just as through one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the **one man's obedience** **J** the many will be made righteous. **20** The law came along to multiply the trespass. But where sin multiplied, **grace multiplied even more** **K** **21** so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace will reign through righteousness, resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Exploring Key Words

- A** Paul had spent four chapters focused on humanity's need for justification. Based on that, he shifted to reconciliation in Romans 5.
- B** The objective position of believers since God has ceased hostilities and has reconciled them to Himself.
- C** Rather than wishful thinking, the Greek word for "hope" (*elpis*) indicates utter confidence in God's promises.
- D** "Patience" (KJV); "perseverance" (NIV). This is a steadfastness produced by suffering. It includes the capacity to remain faithful through difficulty.
- E** This is not an abstract consideration of God's love, but a reality demonstrated through action—particularly in Christ's death for sinners.
- F** "Without strength" (KJV); "weak" (ESV); "powerless" (NIV). Humans are unable to redeem themselves from sin.
- G** Christ met us where we were. We did not have to "clean up" for Him. He paid the price for our sins while we were still under God's wrath (v. 9).
- H** The Greek wording suggests two opposing sides coming to the same conclusion. However, God alone initiated our reconciliation to Himself through Jesus. We receive it as a gift as part of our justification by faith.
- I** A reference to the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. Their rebellion corrupted the entire human race.
- J** Jesus's death on the cross reconciles people to God. He reversed the curse of sin and made righteousness possible by faith.
- K** "Grace abounded" (ESV); "grace increased" (NIV). God's lavish gift of forgiveness and reconciliation is more than enough to cover every sin of every person who comes to Him.



A New Peace (Rom. 5:1-5)

- Summarizing his message to this point (“Therefore”), Paul affirmed that those who are justified by faith in Jesus now live at peace with God, escaping His wrath. Grace gives them a new standing with the Father and hope for eternity.
- In addition, Christ followers can rejoice because even their afflictions are used to nurture their spiritual maturity.

A Proven Love (Rom. 5:6-11)

- The sinless Savior died as a substitute for the ungodly.
- While this defies human logic, Jesus’s death served as a perfect sacrifice for sin and a perfect demonstration of His love.
- His death rescues people from judgment and reconciles them to God. They are no longer His enemies.

A Growing Grace (Rom. 5:18-21)

- Jesus reversed the curse of Eden. While Adam’s disobedience led humanity into condemnation, Christ’s obedient sacrifice leads to justification and reconciliation for all who accept Him in faith.
- Sin creates a universal problem, but it cannot compare to the overwhelming grace of Jesus. He has brought sin’s reign of death to an end, offering reconciliation and eternal life to everyone who believes.

Summary Statements

Christ died for sinners, making reconciliation with God possible for all.

- Believers should embrace their new relationship with God.
- Individuals can be reconciled to God thanks to the loving sacrifice Jesus offered on the cross.
- Our lives can be transformed by the matchless grace of Jesus.

Memory Verse

Romans 5:19

Key Doctrine

Salvation (Justification)

Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God. (See Romans 3:28; Titus 3:5-7.)



For additional commentary, see the Leader Guide or Adult Commentary, available for purchase at [goExploreTheBible.com](https://www.goExploreTheBible.com).

ENGAGE

When have you seen reconciliation in action lately? With whom have you sought reconciliation? (PSG, p. 37)

- Reconciliation paints a picture of love at work. Imagine two children in trouble with their mom. When their mother confronted them about their disobedience, their responses were tinged with disrespect. Their bad behavior built a wall between themselves and their mother.
- Yet, she knew that something had to be done. Because she loved her children, she took the first step toward making things right. So did God when He sent Christ to die for us.

Bonus: What is the relationship between being justified by God and being reconciled to God?

EXPLORE

A NEW PEACE (ROM. 5:1-5)

Bonus: Where do you go when you're looking for peace? What makes that place special?

- "Therefore" looks back to everything Paul had said up to this point about justification (chaps. 1-4). The phrase "since we have been justified" indicates Paul was now turning his attention to those who have placed their faith in Christ. Because we have been justified, we have peace with God.
- Peace with God through Christ gives way to other blessings, such as access to Him, grace that extends beyond mere forgiveness, and hope that anchors our lives now as we look toward eternity.
- Peace with God does not always mean freedom from suffering. We will suffer afflictions in this life. However, those afflictions lead to endurance among believers, which leads to proven character.
- The hope we have as Christians is rooted in God's love. For this reason, our hope in Him will not disappoint us. It is secure in the work of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

How does "peace with God" affect your life today and in eternity? (PSG, p. 40)

A PROVEN LOVE (ROM. 5:6-11)

Bonus: In one word, how would you describe your life before you came to Christ? Why?

- Before being justified through Jesus, we were helpless spiritually. Earning our salvation was not possible. Yet, despite our helplessness, Christ died for the ungodly.
- Dying for ungodly people does not make any logical sense. Someone might die for a "good" person, but never for a sinner. But that's exactly what God did. Christ's death for us can be traced to one motivation: God's love. He demonstrated that love when Jesus died on the cross.

- Paul used the word "reconciled," which points to something that was broken being fixed. In this case, it was our relationship with God. We were enemies of God, displaying hostility, hatred, and animosity toward Him and living under His wrath. But we are reconciled to God through Jesus.

How does Jesus's death prove His love for humanity? (PSG, p. 42)

A GROWING GRACE (ROM. 5:18-21)

Bonus: What are some things that are known for multiplying quickly?

- In verses 12-17, Paul set up a contrast between the sin of Adam and the sacrifice of Jesus. In verses 18-21, he expanded on that contrast. While one act of disobedience (by Adam) led to condemnation, one man's righteous act (Jesus's death) made justification and reconciliation possible for all who respond in faith.
- God's law clarified what sin looked like, which "multiplied" sin in the sense that it increased awareness and accountability. But while the reality of sin grew more troubling, the presence of grace became even more amazing as He lavished His forgiveness on us.

How do I know Jesus's death was meant for me? (PSG, p. 44)

CHALLENGE

As a group, identify the promises given to believers in today's focal passages.

Which of these truths is hardest for you to embrace right now? How can your group encourage one another to live in that promise? (PSG, p. 45)

This week, find a quiet place to reflect on reconciliation with God. Write your thoughts in a journal or in your PSG.

How has the truth about being justified through Christ influenced your attitude about yourself? What difference has knowing that you've been reconciled through Christ made in your daily life? (PSG, p. 45)

FURTHER DISCUSSION



Scan here for additional discussion questions for this week's study.

BIBLE SKILL (PSG, P. 44)

Study the life of a key character in Scripture.

Use a Bible dictionary and other Bible study tools to learn more about the life of Esau, focusing on the reconciliation of Esau and Jacob. Identify the events that prompted Esau to hate his twin brother Jacob. Read Genesis 33 and reflect on the brothers' reconciliation. Consider: ***What anxiety did Jacob feel about reconciliation? What had to happen before the two brothers could be reconciled? How did Jacob try to reconcile with gifts and good works? Why was reconciliation ultimately dependent on Esau's grace?***

Write "Esau" on the board and encourage adults to share what they know about him. Lead them to complete the Bible Skill activity (PSG, p. 44). After a few minutes, lead a brief discussion on their findings. Highlight how reconciliation with God differs from reconciliation between two people.

OBJECT LESSON: NO TRESPASSING SIGN

Display a "No Trespassing" sign. Encourage the group to suggest places where they might see such a sign. Affirm that the primary purpose of the sign is to warn people to stay away.

Explain that since the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, the entire human race has been trespassing against God. Point out that this trespassing has nothing to do with property rights and everything to do with obedience and submission to our Creator.

Ask: ***What happens to people who are caught trespassing?*** Highlight the legal consequences of trespassing. Share that our trespasses against God are much more serious because they make us enemies of God and place us under His wrath. Discuss how the truth of Romans 5:8 offers hope for those who are guilty of trespassing against God.

DIG DEEPER

SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT

Christ died in our place, bearing the penalty for our sins so that we might be reconciled to God. This doctrine is not a theological side issue. It is foundational to the gospel message and held firmly by those who trust in the authority of Scripture.

According to the Bible, all humanity is sinful and stands guilty before a holy God. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." The just penalty for sin is death (see Rom. 6:23), which entails both physical and spiritual separation from God. But in His love and mercy, God provided a way for sinners to be saved. Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, took our place. He became our substitute.

Isaiah foretold this substitution hundreds of years before Christ: "But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities, punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds" (Isa. 53:5). In the New Testament, Romans 5:8 declares, "But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Substitutionary atonement means more than Christ dying for us in a general sense. It means He actually took on Himself the very punishment that

we deserve. First John 2:2 teaches that Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins. This is sacrificial language, meaning Jesus became the blameless Lamb and provided the ultimate sin offering for us.

God does not ignore sin. He judges it fully. Yet in Christ, He takes that judgment upon Himself. Second Corinthians 5:21 explains, "He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

This doctrine upholds both the holiness of God and the richness of His grace. It reminds us that we are not saved by our efforts, but by trusting in the finished work of Jesus. He took our place so that we could be forgiven and made right with God.

BONUS CONTENT



Salvation

What does it mean that we have been saved, are being saved, and will be saved according to Scripture? Scan here to learn more.