

**From Enemies to Friends: The Grace That Makes Us Right with God**  
**Sunday, August 3rd, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.**

Good morning, everyone. I'm so glad we get to be here together—not just because this is what we do on a Sunday. But because we get to worship a God who's alive, who really cares, and loves each one of us. This morning, we're diving into Romans 5, a passage that takes us straight to the heart of what it means to follow Jesus. These verses aren't fluffy; they cut through to the core of Christianity. They speak to three inner desires that every single one of us feels in our hearts. Whether we recognize them or not. We all crave peace, especially when we're in the middle of life's chaos. We all crave a sense of hope, something that can hold us steady when the future feels hazy. And we all desperately want love. Real love that is secure and unconditional. The problem is that we often chase these things in all the wrong places. We look for peace in comfort, success, or control. The more I pay attention to it, the more I see control being a silent killer to our faith. We fall into the trap of believing that life will finally feel stable. if we could just get everything to go our way. We put our hope in our own plans and dreams. Believing that if they work out, then life will finally feel meaningful and safe. We look for love in the approval, attention, or affirmation of others. Believing that if people like us enough. we'll finally feel valuable. But none of that lasts, though. Comfort is temporary, success fades, and people's opinions change. The world's version of love almost always comes with strings attached, and sooner or later, it disappoints us. The odd thing is, we all know this is true. But we keep doing it. And that brings us to Romans 5:1-11. These verses we're going to work through this morning not only help us understand the gospel more deeply. But they show us what true faith, hope and love look like.

**Romans 5:1–11 - [1] Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. [2] Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. [3] Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4] and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, [5] and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**

**[6] For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. [7] For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— [8] but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [9] Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. [10] For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. [11] More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.**

Romans 5 gives us God's answer to all our searching and striving. The highest joys and the deepest pains in life usually revolve around relationships in one form or another. We know from Scripture that our ultimate relationship. The one we were created for. Has been shattered by sin. Because of our sin, there's a separation between us and God that we could never fix on our own. No matter how hard we try. But God has already done what we could never do. Through Jesus, He has stepped in and repaired what was broken. He has made a way back to Himself. Not because we earned it. Definitely

not because we deserved it. But because His grace is bigger than our failure. The gospel isn't about us climbing our way to God. It's about God coming down to rescue us when we couldn't rescue ourselves.

And in these verses, Paul lays out three powerful truths. I'm going to use them as sermon points. But they are so much more than just "nice ideas" to be reminded of on a Sunday morning. They are realities that can completely transform how we see God. How we see ourselves. And how we live every single day. Those truths are:

**We have peace with God.** Real peace, not based on circumstances, but rooted in being made right with Him.

**We have hope in suffering.** A hope that doesn't disappear when life gets hard, but grows stronger through trials.

**We can know God's transforming love.** A love so deep that it changes who we are and gives us confidence in every season.

So today, we're going to walk through each of these together. We're going to see why they aren't just abstract ideas. They are life-changing truths that can reshape the way we live, think, and believe. And I hope in the next 20 minutes, you'll see that Romans 5 is an invitation to experience God's peace, hope, and love in a way that changes everything.

Alright, let's break these verses down.

## 1. Peace with God

Paul starts with this:

**Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

That "therefore" matters. Whenever you see that word you should ask yourself, "What's the "Therefore" There For?" In this case, everything Paul said before chapter 5. How everyone's broken. How we can't save ourselves. How God gives grace through faith. All of that leads to peace with God. This peace isn't just "a chill feeling". It's way deeper than that. Our sin made us enemies of God. Ephesians says we were "far away." Colossians says we were "alienated," But because of Jesus. The war is over. The fight is done. The Judge has declared us righteous. We are at peace with God, which means your past mistakes, the things you don't even like to talk about, the things that wake you up from a deep sleep, such as thinking about them. They no longer define you. It means the shame you've carried for years. Doesn't get the last word. Because of Jesus, your record is wiped clean. God isn't waiting for you to mess up so He can slam the hammer down. When He looks at you, He sees the righteousness of Christ. Many Christians don't live that way, which is true. They think God's love depends on how "good" they've been. They mess up, feel guilty, and wonder if God's done with them. But Paul is crystal clear—our peace is secure because it's based on the finished work of Jesus. Not our performance. And this peace isn't just theological—it's practical. It changes how you see God, yourself, and others. When you

know you're forgiven. You stop trying to prove yourself. You stop living for other people's approval. You stop hiding behind fake perfection. It's like you can finally breathe. Jesus Himself says in:

**John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.**

The world's version of peace is fragile. It depends on everything going right. Money's good, health's good, relationships are good. Only then are you good. But God's peace? It's unshakable. Even when everything else falls apart, He's steady. You can know, without a shred of doubt, that God loves you completely, and when He sees you, He sees the righteousness of Christ. There's freedom in that. We don't need to live weighed down by guilt. We don't need to be trying to earn what we already have. We can live confidently and securely. Even though we're not perfect. Paul adds in verse 2,

**Romans 5:2 - Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand.**

That means the door to God is always open. You're not sneaking in. You're not barely tolerated. You're standing in grace. Permanent, unshakable grace.

**Hebrews 4:16 - Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

This means something like prayer isn't an awkward obligation. It's drawing near to our Father, who actually wants to hear from us. It means when you mess up, you don't have to wait a week to "feel good enough" to talk to God. You should turn to Him right away, because your standing with Him never changed. This is the foundation for the Christian life: We are loved. We already belong. When you live out that truth, you're free. Free to obey, free to worship, free to love others without fear. The first point Romans 5 teaches us is that we can have peace with God. The second is, there is.

## **2. Hope in Suffering**

Paul says something that feels crazy:

**Romans 5:3 - Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings...**

That's a typo, right? Who does that? Nobody likes pain. Our culture avoids it at all costs. We chase comfort, convenience, and distraction. Anything to escape suffering. But Paul says we can rejoice in it. Why? Because God uses it for good. He explains how: Suffering → perseverance → character → hope. Pain isn't pointless. God uses it to shape us, refine us, and mould us into who He made us to be. James 1:2-3 says a similar thing.

**James 1:2-3 - [2] Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, [3] for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.**

Chances are. You've likely grown the most—spiritually—in the toughest parts of your life. When you were broken, hurting, or felt like you were at rock bottom. Those are naturally the times you pray more.

Trust God more. And see Him show up in ways you can't ignore. And it's not just about "getting through it." God is doing something deep in you during your suffering. Perseverance and learning to keep going when life's hard build a faith that lasts. That perseverance leads to character—real, tested character that's stronger, humbler, more like Christ. And that kind of character leads to hope. Hope that isn't shallow or based on circumstances. But hope that is rooted in who God is and what He's promised. Paul says this hope "does not put us to shame." It's not wishful thinking. It's not a "maybe it'll get better" kind of hope. It's a confident expectation built on God's promises. Even in pain, God is present. And when you remember eternity, your perspective changes.

**2 Corinthians 4:16–17 - [16] Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. [17] For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison**

Your pain isn't meaningless. God is at work—even in the worst moments. He's making you more like Christ. He's showing you His faithfulness. And one day, all the pain will be gone for good. That's why Christians can have hope even in suffering. It's not that we enjoy pain—it's that we know it's never wasted. God's using it for something far bigger than we can see right now. The last point Romans 5 teaches us is about.

### **3. God's Transforming Love**

In verse 6, Paul says:

**Romans 5:6,8 - [6] For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. [8] but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

God didn't wait for us to get our act together. He loved us at our absolute worst. He didn't just say it. He showed it. He proved His love by sending Jesus to die for us.

**1 John 4:9–10 - [9] In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. [10] In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

Think about that for a second. If God loved you when you wanted nothing to do with Him, when you were stuck in sin, when you were powerless to change. Why would He stop loving you now? He already knows the worst parts of you. And He still chose the cross. That's the kind of love you can build your life on. When that truth sinks in, it changes you. When you truly believe God loves you like that. You stop living in fear of rejection. You stop trying to find worth in people who can never give it. You stop pretending to be someone you're not, because you already know you're fully known and fully loved. And that kind of love doesn't just stay in you. It should flow through you if God loved you at your worst. How could you not extend that same grace to people who don't deserve it? That friend who hurt you. That family member who drives you crazy. That person you've written off as hopeless. God's love doesn't just comfort us; It drives us. It changes how we treat our friends, our family, our coworkers, even the people we can't stand. Because if God loved us like that. How could we not love like He does?

So, as I wrap up. What do we do with all this? Romans 5 teaches us that there is:

**Peace with God** - Which means you're forgiven. You're secure. So stop trying to earn what Jesus already gave you.

**Hope in suffering** - Your pain isn't pointless. God is doing something bigger in you and through you.

**God's Transforming Love** - If He loved you at your worst. There's no one too far gone for His grace, including you.

So here's the question: Are you living like that's true? Or are you still carrying guilt? Still trying to hold it together on your own. Still withholding forgiveness from someone who hurt you? If you're carrying guilt. Lay it down at the cross. If you're in pain, cling to His hope if you're holding back forgiveness. Remember how much you've been forgiven. Whatever it is. Don't just let this stay as information in your head. The gospel always demands a response. You can't just nod along with me. And move on and go for lunch. Romans 5 is either the best news you've ever heard. Or it's just words on a page. And this was 25 minutes of your life wasted. If what Paul says is true, then your entire life is meant to look different. Peace with God isn't just for Sunday mornings. When the greeter shakes your hand and says something like, "Welcome home," It's for the moments you feel like you've failed again. The moments you wonder if you're enough. The moments you want to run from God instead of to Him. Hope in suffering isn't just a nice idea that we write in cards. It's what sustains you when life feels unbearable, when prayers seem unanswered. When you don't understand what God is doing. And God's love isn't just theology. It's the reality that gives you the power to forgive the unforgivable. To show grace where the world would seek revenge. And to give to people who can't pay you back.

Maybe you've been living like God's peace depends on your performance. Today, you can finally rest. Maybe you've been crushed under the weight of suffering. Today, you can trust that God hasn't left you and He's doing something greater than you can see. Maybe you've been withholding love or forgiveness. Today, you can release that bitterness because you've been forgiven far more. Start by talking to God honestly. Don't be afraid to tell Him where you are. Your guilt, your pain, your fears, your doubts. Ask Him to help you actually believe what's true in Romans 5. Not just know it in your head. But feel it deep in your heart. Ask Him to show you who in your life needs the same grace you've been given.

And as we leave today, don't forget. This isn't just about hearing the truth, it's about living it. God's peace, hope, and love are meant to transform how you approach each day. Your hardest relationships. And the moments you wish you could forget. You don't have to live in fear, in shame, or hopelessness anymore. Christ has already done it all. Now walk in it.