**September 27, 2026 Restored Relationship**
**Session 4 Romans 5:1-11, 18-21**

**Intro.** Previously, Paul pointed out that we are justified by faith in Christ. He is writing to those who have placed their faith in Christ. Abraham was justified by faith rather than by his works. The justification occurred before he was circumcised and before God gave the law to Moses. Reconciliation is the result of justification. By God's grace through Christ, we are justified (just as if we had not sinned), and we are reconciled with God mending the broken relationship that was caused by sin. By God's mercy (not giving us what we deserve) we live at peace with God, enjoy a new standing with the Father and receive eternal life instead of eternal damnation. Both parties have to desire a restored relationship. As long as one party remains hostile or even indifferent, reconciliation can never be achieved. It is not a negotiation. Humanity has shown a tragic indifference toward the One who gave them life and desires the best for them. God cannot give more than He already has. Are there relationships that you would like to have restored? Have you tried to restore a relationship and been unsuccessful?

**A New Peace (Romans 5:1-5) p. 39**
Paul joyously highlights the consequences of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus. We have been justified and have peace with God. Peace involves both the absence of conflict and a sense of well-being. Peace with God has other blessings such as access to Him twenty-four seven. This access is graciously granted into the presence of a royal figure. A person can't just go visit the President of the United States without an invitation. However, his kids can. We are the children of the King of the universe and we can enter His presence any time. We are forgiven, and we have a new life in Him that will never end. Only the grace of God accessed through faith in the Person and work of Jesus can bring about forgiveness of sins and an ongoing, permanent state of peace with God. Paul reminded his readers that peace with and access to God did not result from human goodness or effort. These blessings came through Christ and by faith. We, who have been justified in Christ, celebrate what God has done in the past: forgiving us, and bringing us back to Himself. We can boast in the hope of the glory of God that He will forever be faithful and continue to guide us.
**Vs. 3** We can boast in our afflictions. Peace with God does not always mean freedom from suffering. Peace with God may even result in suffering for the sake of the gospel. Our relationship with God and our walk with Christ produces a spiritual wisdom that changes how we look at our world and our experiences. It generates a spiritual strength that both justifies and enables joy even when experiencing affliction. From our aged maturity, we can look back and acknowledge how God guided us through difficult times. **Deuteronomy 31:8**

*"And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."*
This verse is of great comfort to me. At times when my world felt like it was caving in around me, God was there, and even if my life were to end, I had Jesus and eternal life with Him. God can use the difficult things we experience to help us mature spiritually. Paul presented a chain of effects starting with faith encountering afflictions. Affliction produces endurance. Endurance is the ability to bear up in the face of difficulty. While afflictions are not pleasant, God can use them to teach us, and others around us, about His power, comfort and the strength of our own faith in Christ. We are better equipped to endure temporal afflictions for the certainty of spiritual and eternal reward. **Matthew 5:10** *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*
**Vs. 4** Affliction endured in faith builds within us the spiritual strength to survive subsequent and even greater afflictions. So endurance produces proven character: the result of successfully going through the process of a test or an ordeal. The ordeal reveals the true character of the person tested, both to that individual and to others. Christian hope does not refer to wishful thinking but to the confident expectation that the future will unfold as God has promised. Hope is faith looking forward with confidence. Christians with mature hope can experience peace even in earthly turmoil because they rest in the promises and in the hands of the Father who determines their future. We live in a fallen world and suffer in many ways along with the rest of humanity. But we know that such hardships cannot separate us from God. Nothing can rob us from God's blessings both present and future. We know earthly sufferings are temporary. **Romans 8:28** *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."*
**Vs. 5** Believers who put their hope in God and live on the basis of that hope will not find their confidence in Him was in vain. God's love and the indwelling of our relationship with the Holy spirit prove His presence, His concern for us, and the power of our relationship with Him. God's love is an element of His character. **1 John 4:7-8** *"Behold, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."* Love is from God, and its presence shaping how we treat others reveals God working in us and among us. We know God exists because we have encountered His love in Jesus Christ, and it has transformed us. God has also revealed His love for us through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. **John 14:16-17** *"And I [Jesus] will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the [Holy] Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."* We have been declared righteous by faith, we know the love of God, and the Holy Spirit dwells within us.

For these reasons we can live in peace and hope, whatever circumstance or challenges life brings.

**A Proven Love (Romans 5:6-11) p. 40**

Humanity was trapped in its own sin, helpless to find a cure and destined for death, but God intervened. Humanity had not earned, did not deserve, and could not accomplish its own cure. Yet at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. Ungodly refers to persons who are irreverent and do not fear God and so do not deserve God's sympathy or mercy. The spiritual illness of willful sin, rebellion against God, had produced a terminal condition from which humanity could not cure itself. God sent Jesus at the appointed time for His perfect plan for the salvation of all who turn to Him in faith. God orchestrated events so that Christ arrived at the right time. The peace of the Roman Empire, a common language [Greek], and a general curiosity about religious ideas contributed to a perfect historical environment for the Savior's arrival.

**Vs. 7** It is rare that someone would willingly die for a just or good person. It is reasonable that loving parents may sacrifice their lives for their children, spouses may sacrifice their lives for each other, and friends may be self-sacrificing.

**John 15:12-13** *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I [Jesus] have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."* However, it is very unlikely that someone would willingly die for an enemy. But that is exactly what God did! God proved His love for us in that while we were still sinners [enemies], Christ died for us. Some people think they must "get right" before God will accept them. I thought I had to "clean up my act" for God to want me. I knew I was a lost person, and I thought I had to give up my lifestyle first for God to save me. But He took me as I was, and He changed me. Satan likes to keep the truth hidden. The truth is that we have been justified by God through faith in Christ, we have been saved from God's wrath. We will never suffer the wrath of God because Jesus suffered as our substitute on the cross. To be reconciled means to fix what was broken. Our relationship with God was broken and God fixed it. Our reconciliation to God was initiated by God, accomplished by Christ, and is received by us. Reconciling two parties requires resolving hostility and restoring a healthy, positive relationship. Both parties must participate. God always upholds His part in reconciliation but people often do not. It is often not easy to accomplish, and someone must take the first step toward the other. God did this for us in Christ. Reconciliation assures believers of God's love in the present and also of salvation in the future. We can boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, not in the sense of feeling better than others, but in great humility that God would go to such length to save us. Think of boasting in this context as something worth sharing.

**A Growing Grace (Romans 5:18-21) p. 42**

Adam introduced sin into the world, and all who follow Adam in sin reap condemnation (an expression of very strong disapproval). In contrast, Jesus, by His righteous act, has made justification available, and all who follow Jesus reap life. The phrase “Through one man’s disobedience” refers to Adam’s trespass, emphasizing that it was a willful act. Likewise, Jesus’s one righteous act, His willing self-sacrifice on the cross, is characterized as one man’s obedience. As a result of Adam’s act, many were made sinners. While the descendants of Adam can be called sinners by nature, the fact is that they also ignored God’s revelation to them and chose to disobey. In contrast, through one righteous act there is justification leading to life for everyone. Likewise Jesus’s one righteous act, His willing self-sacrifice on the cross, is characterized as one man’s obedience. Because of what Jesus did, there is justification leading to life for everyone. The “everyone” Paul referenced here are believers in Christ, not unbelievers. Eternal life is not given to those who do not believe. **John 3:18** *“He who believes in Him [Jesus] is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten son of God.”*

**Vs. 21** God’s law clarified more precisely what disobedience and sin looked like. The law multiplied sin in the sense that it increased awareness and accountability. We are sinners because we are descended from Adam. We have chosen to disobey God ourselves, and we are accountable for our disobedience to Him. God’s law gives us no excuse for being confused about what sin looks like for us. Our sin separates us from God, and it leads to death. When death reigned over us like a brutal tyrant from whom we could never escape, God’s grace came to our rescue and delivered us. Not only has God in His grace liberated us from death, He also placed us in His kingdom. We live under the reign of His amazing grace, and we live eternally with Him through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Things to think about.**

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.