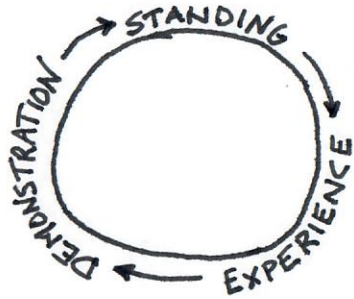


IF Romans 5:1-11 is true THEN the greatest thing in the world is to be a Christian!

CIRCLE OF  
CHRISTIAN  
EXPERIENCE



## ① STANDING OF THE CHRISTIAN

By "standing" definition + illustration, Cf. 5:2

1. Peace w.  $\Theta$
2. Access into grace in which we stand
3. Rejoice in the hope of the glory of  $\Theta$  Cf. 8:18ff
4. Rejoice in our sufferings What! Why?

- ☑ Suffering produces endurance
- ☑ Endurance produces character
- ☑ Character produces hope
- ☑ Hope does not put us to shame, i.e. does not expose us as foolish, leave us vulnerable **IN CONTRAST TO FALSE IDOLS**

How? = b/c  $\Theta$ 's love is poured into our  $\hearts$

## ② EXPERIENCE OF THE CHRISTIAN

☰☰ "G's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given us" Break this down ...

☑ G's **AGAPE LOVE** = unmerited, unconditional, creative OH THE SECURITY

☑ Poured into our hearts = personal, experiential "I love you" OH THE WONDER

☑ By the Holy Spirit given to us = Person in+ with us, G's GIFT that can't be taken OH THE COMPANIONSHIP 8:15 "Abba"

SEE? No greater dignity, end/purpose, experience?  
How this lifts up the poor, weak, nobodies?  
Gospel embraced by poor, broken... Young  
Life in INDY... song "\_\_\_\_\_ is somebody"

Is it yours?

So hard to believe G loves me b/c (1) of my suffering, (2) b/c of my sins, (3) b/c I just don't feel presence of the Holy Spirit.

### ③ DEMONSTRATION OF G'S LOVE FOR XTIAN

Prove it! How do I know?

☰☰ Notably

- ☑ NOT assurance/experience of Holy Spirit
- ☑ NOT a life devoid of suffering, just opposite vs. 3
- ☑ BUT ✝ CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST Luther  
"the cross alone is our theology"

"For while we were still weak, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person one would even dare to die - but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

How do we know a person's love? Mere words, intentions? Or by actions?

✝ GREAT PROOF OF G'S LOVE FOR YOU!

Application Daily apply the logic of the cross

- ☑ Justified by blood ▶ saved from G's wrath vs. 9
- ☑ Enemies + Reconciled ▶ saved by His life vs. 10
- ☑ Rejoice in G through who received reconciliation vs. 11

