

Grace Changes Everything

especially the way we look at life and suffering.

Romans 5:1-11

In Rom 5, grace “much more” abounds!

- i. We were sinners but we are “much more” saved by his life (Rom 5:9).
- ii. We are “much more” reconciled than we were sinners (Rom 5:10).
- iii. The grace of God “much more” covers sin than Adam caused it (Rom 5:15).
- iv. We receive “much more” grace in Christ than death in Adam (Rom 5:17).
- v. Grace “more exceedingly” abounds in our lives than sin (Rom 5:20).

Big Idea: We're declared righteous because of grace; therefore, we look at life and suffering differently.

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 More than that, 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.

Grace unifies us. There are more first person plural pronouns in these verses than the first 4 chapters of Romans. Paul wants the church unified.

Romans is built on four therefore ...

“Therefore we conclude that a man cannot be justified by the works of the law” (3:20).

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (5:1).

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (8:1).

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice” (12:1).

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. (Rom 5:1-11)

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1. Grace brings us peace, access, and joy (vv. 1-2).
2. Relationship with God allows joy during suffering (vv. 3-5).
3. God loves us with his words and deeds (vv. 6-11).

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We have peace with God (v. 1b, 11)

- i. Peace means no more wrath from God toward us, and no more rebellion from us toward God (Rom 5:9-10).
- ii. God makes and maintains peace with us.
- iii. Peace with God is an objective reality, not a feeling.
- iv. Let the truth of God's Word drive your feelings.

We have access to God (v. 2a).

- i. We have “privilege of approach” to God (Eph 2:18; 3:12).
- ii. Grace doesn’t just eliminate wrath; it brings us favored status with God.
- iii. We’re like children with a father we know loves us (Mt 6:9f).

We joy in Christ (v. 2b).

- i. Continual rejoicing: “let us keep on rejoicing.”
- ii. Eager anticipation of the time when we will share Christ’s glory (v. 3:23; cf. Col 1:27; Col 3:4; Rom 8:17-30).

2. Relationship with God allows joy during suffering (vv. 3-5).

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“in this peace and in this grace where we stand, there are so many afflictions. And the only way we can maintain joy in this afflicted peace and this afflicted grace is hope.”

-- John Piper

4 reasons to rejoice in sufferings (vv. 3-5).

- i. Suffering tempers the steel of our faith (1Pt 1:7).
- ii. Endurance *proves* our character (Jam 1:2-4).
- iii. Proofed character results in hope.
- iv. Hope in Christ is confirmed by the Spirit.

3 ways to live during difficulties.

- i. Pray, in the hope of Christ.
- ii. Rejoice that God tempers your faith through struggles.
- iii. Rest in the knowledge that you're a child of God.

3. God loves us with his words and deeds (vv. 6-11).

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God not only declares his love for us, but he also demonstrates it through the death of his son for undeserving sinners.

Worship God as a declaration of what you know to be true in spite of the difficulties you may be facing.