

Romans 5 Study Guide

Emphasis: Romans 5:1–11, 18–21

Romans 5 builds on Paul's argument that we are justified by faith, not by works (Romans 3:28; 4:3–5). These verses move from **justification to assurance**. Because we are justified by faith, we have peace with God, stand in grace, endure suffering with hope, know God's love, and receive reconciliation through Christ.

The chapter begins with a remarkable change in relationship: **we were enemies of God, but through Christ we have peace with God** (Romans 5:1, 10). It ends with another great contrast: Adam's disobedience brought sin and death, but Christ's obedience brings righteousness and life (Romans 5:18–21).

Sin is real, judgment is real, and suffering is real — but in Christ, grace is greater.

1. What does it mean to have “peace with God”? (Romans 5:1, 10)

Paul says that, having been justified by faith, “we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1). This is more than inner calm. It means reconciliation.

Before Christ, Paul says “we were enemies” of God (Romans 5:10). Sin placed us under judgment and in opposition to God (Romans 1:18; 3:23). Through Christ's death, that hostility is dealt with, and the relationship is changed from enmity to peace.

So peace with God is an objective reality before it is a feeling. We may not always feel peaceful, but through Christ we are no longer God's enemies; we have been reconciled to Him.

Everyday Application: Our peace with God does not depend on our emotions or performance. It rests on the finished work of Christ, who reconciled us to God while we were still His enemies.

2. What does it mean that we have “access by faith into this grace”? (Romans 5:2)

Paul says that through Christ “we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand” (Romans 5:2). Grace is not merely how we entered the Christian life; it is the place in which we continue to stand.

This connects with Romans 1:17: the Christian life is “from faith to faith.” We begin by grace through faith, and we continue in dependence on grace.

Everyday Application: We do not move beyond grace into self-sufficiency. Our daily life with God continues to depend on what He gives, not what we earn.

3. Why can believers rejoice in suffering? (Romans 5:3–5)

Paul does not say suffering is pleasant. He says believers can “glory in tribulations” because suffering can produce perseverance, character, and hope (Romans 5:3–4).

The process is not automatic. Hardship can either harden us or deepen our trust. James similarly says testing can produce patience and maturity (James 1:2–4).

Paul then says this hope “does not disappoint” because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5).

Everyday Application: Suffering is not meaningless in the hands of God. We can ask not only, “How do I get out of this?” but also, “What is God forming in me through this?”

4. What does Christ’s death reveal about the nature of God’s love? (Romans 5:6–8)

Paul says Christ died for us “when we were still without strength” and “while we were still sinners” (Romans 5:6, 8). God did not wait for us to become worthy.

Human love may sacrifice for someone considered good or deserving, but God’s love is demonstrated toward people who are guilty and helpless.

This echoes Jesus’ mission to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).

Everyday Application: God’s love is not a reward for improvement. We do not clean ourselves up enough to deserve Christ; we receive grace because we need rescue.

5. What does Paul mean when he says we are saved from wrath through Christ? (Romans 5:9–10)

Paul says that, having been justified by Christ’s blood, believers “shall be saved from wrath through Him” (Romans 5:9). God’s wrath is His righteous judgment against sin, not uncontrolled anger (Romans 1:18).

Paul then says that while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son (Romans 5:10). The cross deals with both guilt and broken relationship.

Everyday Application: Salvation is not merely improvement of life. It is rescue from judgment and restoration to relationship with God.

6. Why does Paul say believers can “rejoice in God”? (Romans 5:11)

Paul’s focus moves beyond rejoicing in benefits to rejoicing in God Himself. Through Jesus Christ, “we have now received the reconciliation” (Romans 5:11).

The greatest gift of the gospel is not simply forgiveness, heaven, peace, or blessing. It is restored relationship with God.

Jesus says eternal life is to know the Father and the Son whom He sent (John 17:3).

Everyday Application: It is worth asking whether we mainly want God’s gifts or God Himself. Reconciliation brings us back into relationship with Him.

7. What is Paul teaching through the contrast between Adam and Christ? (Romans 5:18–19)

Paul says that through one man's offense judgment came to all, while through Christ's righteous act came justification and life (Romans 5:18). Through Adam's disobedience, many were made sinners; through Christ's obedience, many are made righteous (Romans 5:19).

Adam represents humanity in rebellion. Christ represents a new humanity in obedience. Paul later develops this contrast further in 1 Corinthians 15:21–22, 45–49.

Everyday Application: Our deepest identity is not determined by our past, family line, or failure. In Christ, we are brought under a new head and a new story.

8. What does it mean that “where sin abounded, grace abounded much more”? (Romans 5:20–21)

Paul says the law entered so that the offense might abound, meaning sin became clearer and more accountable under God's revealed standard (Romans 5:20; Romans 3:20).

But sin does not have the final word. “Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more” (Romans 5:20). Paul is not saying sin is unimportant or that grace gives permission to sin. He immediately rejects that idea in Romans 6:1–2.

Instead, Paul says grace now “reigns through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 5:21).

Everyday Application: No sin is greater than the grace available in Christ, but grace does not leave us where it found us. Grace forgives, restores, and begins to reshape the life of the believer.