

ROMANS 5:8 FEBRUARY 25TH 2018

Romans 5:6–11 (ESV) — **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.

We're jumping forward a little to take a look at just a few verses. Romans 5:6-11. This will admittedly be a topical teaching.

We've trying to keep things in the perspective of a courtroom setting where Paul makes his case for the Gospel.

We've also tried to view the gospel as a diamond. One message with many facets.

The theme is still the same. Romans 1:16-17

Today our focus is going to be on verse 8, but I wanted to read this with context.

The context of what Paul is doing is to explain the benefits of justification by faith. He spent chapter four discussing this. He explained by using Abraham as his proof, that faith has always been the currency for justification and righteousness in God's economy. It's by faith in Christ and what He has done and not by our works that God has exchanged to deposit His righteousness into our previously bankrupt spiritual bank accounts. Here he is showing that it's not on the basis of our goodness, but His.

Romans 5:8 (ESV) — 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

BUT GOD

Ephesians 2:1–7 (ESV) — **1** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **4** **But God,** being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 73:26 (ESV) — **26** My flesh and my heart may fail, **but God** is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Luke 16:15 (ESV) — 15 And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, **but God** knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

Acts 10:39–40 (ESV) — 39 And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, **40 but God** raised him on the third day and made him to appear,

1 Corinthians 1:26–27 (ESV) — 26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. **27 But God** chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

2 Corinthians 7:5–6 (ESV) — 5 For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. **6 But God,** who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus,

It’s rare for a person to die for a good person but Paul used the first 3 chapters to prove, we are not good people.

But God...

God

Think about who He is: God, Theos, The Creator, The Great I AM, The Almighty.

THIS NEXT WORD IN THE GREEK HAS A DEPTH THAT CAUSES COMMENTATORS AND TRANSLATORS TO USE MANY DIFFERENT WORDS TO TRANSLATE IT. I WANT TO LOOK AT THE DIFFERENT WAYS THAT THIS IS TRUE FOR US.

SHOWS

Present Active Indicative, He is actively showing this reality **now**. He is STILL SHOWING His love for us with this past action.

Romans 3:5 our unrighteousness shows God’s righteousness, like shadows and darkness prove the existence of light.

Romans 3:5 (ESV) — 5 But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.)

When we are able to say “that’s not right!” we are only bearing witness that our conscience knows there is a “right” to compare it to.

God shows you His love for you in the death and resurrection of His Son.

John 3:19-21 His light shows, reveals.

PROVES

Acts 17:3 "explaining and proving"

Acts 17:3 (ESV) — 3 explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ."

The **proof** that God loves you is shown in the act of the cross.

Do you not feel loved? **God proved that He does love you, by the death of His Son on the cross. You are loved.**

There is love by the tongue, but that does not strike down into the heart. That is not worth much. God does not say He loves us without giving us some proof of His love.

D.L. Moody Finding God

You've heard the expression "talk is cheap." God proved His love in the most expensive way, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19)

or "don't just say you love me, show me."

"The death of Christ, is the proof of God's love. Sometimes it is stated as if on the one side there was a gentle and loving Christ, and on the other an angry and vengeful God; and as if Christ had done something which changed God's attitude to men and women. Nothing could be further from the truth. The whole matter springs from the love of God. Jesus did not come to change God's attitude; he came to show what it is and always was. He came to prove beyond question that God is love." – Barclay

EXHIBITS

The Hermitage in St. Petersburg has works from 3 of the 4 ninja turtles, plus Rembrandt, Monet, Picasso, etc. What do they exhibit for me? The best works of human hands, but the cross shows much more, it shows the perfect work of the hand of God. Isaiah 49:5-16, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.

We hang masterpieces in museums, God hung His masterpiece from a tree.

Matt 22:40 on these hang all the law and the prophets (KJV) What? The command to love.

Matthew 22:40 (AV) — 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

DEMONSTRATES

The Costco demonstrations of the tools and products.

to cause something to be known by action—‘to make known by action, to demonstrate, to show.’

συνίστησιν δὲ τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ἀγάπην εἰς ἡμᾶς ὁ θεός ‘but God has shown us how much he loves us’ Ro 5:8;¹

HIS (OWN) LOVE

What is love?

“the essence of God’s love is giving.” – Stott

1 Corinthians 13 Love is...

The world’s version of love is different than God’s love. There’s a selfishness behind the love of the world, but there’s a selflessness behind God’s love. And that is proved and demonstrated on the cross. God’s love is there whether or not it is ever reciprocated.

1 John 4:8 God IS Love. Jesus is Love in the flesh or incarnate. God is the source of this love because He is love. Because He is love, God is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent. In a sense, His love is also. His love is all powerful, it has the power to forgive. His love is all knowing, He knows everything about you and still loves you. His love is omnipresent, where can I go to escape His love?

1 John 4:10 (ESV) — 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.

Psalm 7:11 God is angry with the wicked every day. or God feels indignation every day. His anger is in direct relationship to His love. Because He loves the sinner He can be angry when He sees sin destroying their life.

This perfect love belongs to Him, He is not obligated to share it with us, but because He loves, He does.

Romans 8:3 “His own Son.” In the same way that His Son Jesus was His own, His love is His own.

John 3:16 God SO Loved...

“[It is] a love distinct from every other love, a love uniquely God’s own.” – Stott

Godly love is eternal. It’s one of the things we have that lasts on into eternity.

FOR US

Think about who you are. Now think about the person next to you, that’s the person God loves.

We have been described by Paul with four words: weak (v6), ungodly (v6), sinners (v8) and enemies (v10). These are the people that Jesus died for. We are the people that Jesus died for. This can either

¹ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [*Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains*](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 340). New York: United Bible Societies.

insult you because in the pride of your heart you think you better than that, or this can bless you because in humility you know, he could've used even more terrible words to describe us. To recognize that this is exactly who Jesus died for. There was no merit in our bankrupt souls, which means the only possible motivation that Christ could've had to die for us, was His great love.

"If Christ died for the ungodly, this fact leaves the ungodly no excuse if they do not come to him and believe in him unto salvation. Had it been otherwise they might have pleaded, 'We are not fit to come.' But you are ungodly, and Christ died for the ungodly, why not for you?" – Spurgeon

"weak" refers to moral frailty rather than physical weakness.

IN THAT WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS,

"*Still*" points to our state at the time... There is nothing in sinners to call forth the love of God." – Leon Morris

While...

Romans 5:6 "while we were weak..."

Romans 5:8 "while we were still sinners..."

Romans 5:10 "while we were enemies..."

While you were habitually lying

While you were in sexual sin

While you were intoxicated

While you were committing the most heinous act of your life, Christ's blood was paying for your sin.

When those sins were being committed against you, Christ died to pay for the wrath that those sins deserved. Romans 5:6 "Christ died for the ungodly."

God loves sinners. The Bible says God loves sinners. It teaches another thing: that God loves you in your sin. Some of you may shake your heads and say that is false. God loves you in your sin; because, if you could get rid of your sin, you would not need a Savior. If He does not love us until we are free from sin, there is no hope for any of us. To be sure, He saves us from sin; but while we were yet in sin, Christ loved us, and died for us.

D.L. Moody Finding God

Luke 18:13 This shows why the cry of the tax collector was precious to the ears of Jesus! He doesn't want to hear us justifying ourselves in arrogance, but rather humbly crying out for mercy.

God's love is not because of us (as if we've earned it) it's in spite of us (because the only thing we've earned is wrath).

Do not make the mistake of thinking that you have to clean yourself up before you can come to God. OR saying I'll come to Christ when I'm clean. You must come to Christ to get clean, not because you are clean.

1 John 1:7 "The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from ALL Sin.

Psalm 51:2,7,10 You clean me. David acknowledges that it has to be God's action not his.

Sitting in the carpet warehouse at coastline Acts 10:15. What I have called clean you don't call unclean. 1 John 1:9

Acts 10:15 (NASB95) — 15 Again a voice came to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy."

CHRIST DIED FOR US

Christ died. Let that sink in. sometimes as church people we become used to that enough that we don't allow that fact to have its proper impact.

"...Though the sins were ours the death was His." – Stott

My sin cost Jesus His life. God doesn't sweep sin under the rug, He cleanses it with blood.

Leviticus 17:11 (ESV) — 11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.

The innocent died for the guilty.

"Thoughts to make your heart sing" by Sally Lloyd Jones page 114

John 15:13 (ESV) — 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Deuteronomy 7:7-8 He loves you because He loves you.

Deuteronomy 7:7–8 (ESV) — 7 It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, **8 but it is because the Lord loves you** and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

"Greeks considered laying down one's life for someone else (especially a friend) heroic [but uncommon]." – IVP

“Christ not only obtained His enemies pardons, but He died to accomplish that.” – R K Hughes

The more the gift costs the giver, and the less the recipient deserves is, the greater the love is seen to be.” – Stott

Please understand that in order for God to be demonstrating his love toward us by the death of Jesus on the cross, Jesus has to be God in the flesh. There is no way around this. This is why we call him Emmanuel, literally “God with us.” If Jesus is just a created being, then what was done on the cross is not God’s love, but instead it will be God creating a being to take care of a problem. This is also the answer to the accusation from some prominent atheists that the cross is “cosmic child abuse.” This can only come from a misunderstanding (intentional or not) of the nature of God. What we must see is the innocent God, dying in place of his guilty creation.

“The unique majesty of God’s love lies in the combination of three factors, namely that when Christ died for us, God was giving Himself, even to the horrors of a sin-bearing death on the cross and doing so for His undeserving enemies.” – Stott

“Christ’s action is God’s action. Christ’s love is God’s love.” – Nygren

2 Corinthians 5:19 (ESV) — 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

“The cross is an event of the past but he keeps showing the love of God.” – Leon Morris

“He loved us as wretches occupied in sin, unable and unwilling to pay Him or obey Him. This is absolute grace.” – William Newell

“...it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace...” Hebrews 13:9b

IT’S YOUR TURN

Jesus said **John 13:35 (ESV) — 35** By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

This could be one of the greatest unknown verses for evangelism in the entire Bible. What I mean is that we usually think of other verses for evangelism. This is supposed to be how we are known. By our love for one another. As great as certain things are: apologetics, food, programs, gospel tracts, music, even teaching, we aren’t to be known by them. We are to be known by our love. Now back up. That list I just gave that is in no way exhaustive. Apologetics in love, there’s no greater argument. Because apologetics from a place of love is no longer trying to win the argument, but the soul. Food in love. Mediocre food becomes the greatest meal of fellowship when it comes from a place of love. We joke in our house about cooking and using the ingredient of love. Programs move from being just another system that takes up time, to a structured plan for distributing God’s love. Gospel tracts can be handed out in frustration just to be thrown away, but in love they become an attempt to share the loving

message that changed our lives. Music moves from song time, to worship, making a joyful noise because of love. Teaching moves from dryness, or merciless to an extension of the voice of God speaking to hearts in love. And so on. Love is often the great and often missing evangelistic tool that He's equipped His church with.

God's love is not disguised, arcane and secret but overt and demonstrated publicly! **Galatians 3:1 (ESV)** — **1** O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that **Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.** **Colossians 2:13–15 (ESV)** — **13** And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, **14** by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. **15** He disarmed the rulers and authorities and **put them to open shame**, by triumphing over them in him.

This isn't a hippy concept or an out of reach idealistic whim to attain to. This is love. As DC Talk so eloquently put it, "love is a verb." It's not theoretical, but theological. Love cannot be action-less.

I am not advocating for social justice or new programs, only real love. Real love doesn't come from man, but God. This world has seen far too many things that started out to extend the gospel through action only to see the gospel later abandoned and only an action left. We must care more for eternal destiny than present comforts.

In 1 Thessalonians 1:3 Love is referred to as a "labor of love." It's not supposed to be easy.

In this world we see all of the atrocities and rightly judged them as wrong, especially in the light of God's word. We forget as believers that justice was demonstrated on the cross (Romans 3:25). How perfect! Look at what else Paul (in the very same book) has declared that God demonstrated on the cross, His love! The only place where true love and true justice can ever meet is at the cross of Jesus Christ in this God-ordained perfect demonstration.

Love cannot be demonstrated by keeping to yourself.

APPLICATION

KNOW

Knowing His love frees us.

Galatians 5:1, For freedom Christ has set us free

The love of God through the cross of Christ is the unshakeable foundation of the believer's confidence in and through everything else. How can I have confidence? Because God loves me. How do I know He loves me? Because He proved it on the cross. When we were going through everything that happened with our son this last year, we could not know what the next minute was going to hold, but we knew God held those minutes. We knew He loved us. As a family we held on to God's promise from Joshua

1:9 that was then paraphrased by the author of Hebrews in Chapter 13 verse 5. **Joshua 1:9 (ESV) — 9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” – This verse is deeply rooted in the love of God. How do I know He won’t leave me or forsake me? Not only because it’s God who said it and He cannot lie. But because He loves me. Not just by His words, but by His very actions on the cross.

“What is the ultimate ground on which our Christian hope rests, our hope of glory? It is the steadfast love of God. The reason our hope will never let us down is that God will never let us down.” – Stott

Love for Christ arises from the realization of our sin and from faith in the wondrous pardoning love of Christ. – Torrey (see Luke 7:47; Galatians 2:20; 1 John 4:10)

Luke 7:47 (ESV) — 47 Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.”

Galatians 2:20 (ESV) — 20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

1 John 4:10 (ESV) — 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.

“...[an] objective way of assuring us of His love. It is that He proved His love by Christ’s death on the cross.’ – Stott

ASK

Luke 11:13 (ESV) — 13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”**

Ask! Jesus said you could.

Romans 5:5 (ESV) — 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.**

This love is supernatural. We don’t conjure anything up as Christians, let alone His love. HE POURS IT INTO OUR HEARTS. Ask

V5 “God’s love has been poured into our hearts. The idea in the Greek that God’s love has been and continues to be poured out within our hearts.” – R K Hughes

“One of the Holy Spirit’s distinctive ministries is to pour God’s love into our hearts.” – Stott

“Our hearts have been filled to overflowing with divine affection. The agent of this in us is **the Holy Spirit, who personally represents God’s love in our hearts.**” – R K Hughes

“Objectively in history and subjectively in experience, God has given us good grounds for believing in His love. The integration of the historical ministry of God’s Son (on the cross) with the contemporary ministry of His Spirit (in our hearts) is one of the most wholesome and satisfying features of the gospel.”
– Stott

“The genitive in the expression ‘love of God’ [in verse 5] must surely be subjective, not objective, in that it is God’s love for us, not our love for Him.” – Stott

Pray for God’s love to be poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. My “tank” for loving someone else can run empty, but God is the infinite source of love. He is love. (1 John 4:8)

1 John 4:10 (ESV) — 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

Now ask Him, how can I love better? How can I grow in my love for others?

PROVOKE

Hebrews 10:24–25 (ESV) — 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **25** not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Look! You’re here! Keep coming. You are a part of the body of Christ. We need you and you need us. How can we learn to love without you? You may be the very one who God is using to teach someone else love and patience. 😊

KJV uses the word provoke!

Hebrews 10:24–25 (AV) — 24 And let us consider one another to **provoke** unto love and to good works: **25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

As a parent this is one of those things that drives me nuts. One kid is always reacting to something the other kids did. I don’t know how many times I’ve said, “stop provoking your brother. You are just as responsible for his reaction because you keep provoking him!”

But here we see in the Bible the one place that **we are encouraged to provoke our brothers and sisters. As the family of God, I’m telling you to provoke each other. But, provoke them in love, to love.**

You’re not trying to provoke someone to love instead of you but you’re trying to provoke them to love with you or alongside you.

Galatians 5:13 you were called to freedom... through love serve one another.

The Love of Christ compelled Paul to do the things he did. 2 Corinthians 5:14. Let the love of God be our motivator as we go and live our lives.

CLOSING

Romans 5:8 (ESV) — 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Can I ask if you're a Christian? D. Martin Lloyd Jones used to ask people that. If their response was "I'm trying to be." He knew they didn't understand the Gospel.

If we were to walk up to one of my kids and ask, "Are you his child?" pointing at me. If their response was, "I'm trying to be." We would know that something wasn't right in our relationship.

When we're born again we become His child. Ephesians 1 says we were "predestined for adoption." God determined that anyone who puts their faith in Christ would be His child. A child who knows He belongs to His Loving Father is free to just love Him in return.

One thing I want to encourage you in is I think as a body, we love well. Maybe some more than others but as a group we love well. One of the things that drew us as a family here was your love and willingness to take us in as your family. A few months ago, I was asked what I see as a strength for this church body. That was easy. Love. I see your love. I see the word of God being applied and the fruit you are bearing is love. But why stop there? The worst thing we can do is to become self-satisfied with our past. Let us grow in this love.

There are two ways that our love can grow in scripture. The first is negative. **Matthew 24:12 (ESV) — 12** And because lawlessness will be increased, ***the love of many will grow cold.*** And the second way is positive. In reference to maturity Paul says: **Ephesians 4:15–16 (ESV) — 15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, ***makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*** Without doing an entire teaching on this verse we can see that the body grows in love together as they look to Jesus Christ as their head (the One who's in charge).

1 John 4:11 (ESV) — 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:19–21 (ESV) — 19 We love because he first loved us. **20** If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. **21** And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Go and share His love with others. God made you an ambassador. Live in this world, while you represent the next. The best representation of His kingdom is His love.

COMMUNION