

# PEACE WITH GOD: Study Questions for Reflection

## Romans 5:1-11

### 1. THE REALITY OF PEACE WITH GOD

*"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1)*

Paul declares this as a present reality, not a future hope or feeling. What's the difference between having "peace with God" (a positional reality) versus having "peace from God" (an emotional experience)? How does understanding that your peace with God is based on Christ's finished work rather than your current feelings or circumstances change how you approach difficult seasons? When do you most struggle to believe that you actually have permanent peace with God?

### 2. UNDERSTANDING YOUR FORMER CONDITION

**"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly... while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6, 8)**

Paul describes our pre-justification condition using three terms: weak, ungodly, and sinners. How does honestly acknowledging your former spiritual condition (and ongoing tendencies toward sin) increase your appreciation for God's grace? Do you ever minimize your need for Christ by comparing yourself to others or focusing on your moral efforts? How does understanding that Christ died for you "while you were still" in rebellion help you extend grace to others who are currently far from God?

### 3. THE NATURE OF DIVINE LOVE

**"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8)**

This verse reveals that God's love is demonstrated not by our worthiness but by our unworthiness. How does this differ from human love, which is typically based on attraction to good qualities in the other person? What does it mean that God didn't wait for you to clean up your life before extending His love? How should this understanding of God's unconditional love affect your relationships with difficult people in your life?

### 4. ACCESS TO A NEW REALM

**"Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand" (Romans 5:2)**

Paul uses kingdom language to describe our transfer from the realm where sin reigns to the realm where grace reigns. What practical differences should be evident in your daily life now that you live in the "kingdom of grace" rather than the "kingdom of sin and death"? How do you sometimes slip back into living as if you're still under sin's dominion? What would it look like to more fully embrace your citizenship in God's kingdom of grace?

## **5. THE FOUNDATION OF LASTING PEACE**

**"Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God" (Romans 5:9)**

Your peace with God is not based on your performance but on Christ's blood sacrifice. How does this truth address fears about losing your salvation or not being "good enough" for God? When you sin or struggle spiritually, do you tend to question your standing with God or rest in the finished work of Christ? What would change in your approach to spiritual growth if you truly believed your acceptance by God is permanent and complete?

## **6. THE ROLE OF SUFFERING IN FAITH**

**"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope" (Romans 5:3-4)**

Paul connects our peace with God to a transformed perspective on suffering. How does knowing you have permanent peace with God change how you view and respond to trials? What's the difference between rejoicing "in" suffering versus finding some joy despite suffering? How have you seen God use difficult circumstances to develop your character and deepen your hope? What current difficulties might God be using for your spiritual growth?

## **7. THE SECURITY OF GOD'S LOVE**

**"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" (Romans 5:5)**

The Holy Spirit assures us internally of God's love, making our hope secure. How do you distinguish between the Spirit's witness of God's love and your own emotions or circumstances? When do you most need to rely on the Spirit's testimony rather than your feelings? What practices help you tune into the Spirit's voice when doubt or discouragement clouds your sense of God's love?

## **8. FROM ENEMIES TO CHILDREN**

**"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" (Romans 5:10)**

Paul emphasizes the dramatic change from being God's enemies to being reconciled to Him. Do you sometimes still relate to God as if you're His enemy rather than His beloved child? How does understanding that God initiated reconciliation while you were hostile toward Him affect your confidence in approaching Him now? What areas of your life do you still keep hidden from God out of fear or shame?

## 9. JOY AS A MARK OF JUSTIFICATION

**"More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation" (Romans 5:11)**

Paul repeatedly emphasizes rejoicing as a characteristic of justified people. Are you known as a joyful person? If not, what obstacles prevent you from experiencing and expressing the joy of your salvation? How does your level of joy reflect your understanding of what Christ has accomplished for you? What would need to change for you to be someone who genuinely "rejoices in God"?

## 10. AMBASSADORS OF RECONCILIATION

**"All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation... We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2 Cor 5:18, 20)**

Having received peace with God, you're now called to be an ambassador of reconciliation to others. How actively are you using your life and relationships to help others find peace with God? What fears or obstacles keep you from sharing the message of reconciliation? Who in your sphere of influence needs to hear about the possibility of peace with God through Christ? How might your workplace, neighborhood, or family relationships become platforms for gospel witness?

## PERSONAL REFLECTION EXERCISE

### Assessing Your Peace with God:

1. **Positional Reality:** Do you truly believe you have permanent peace with God regardless of your current spiritual performance? Rate your confidence (1-10) and explain why.
2. **Emotional Experience:** How often do you feel peaceful versus anxious in your relationship with God? What triggers feelings of distance or fear?
3. **Kingdom Living:** In what ways are you living as a citizen of grace rather than still operating under the dominion of sin and guilt?
4. **Joy Factor:** Would others describe you as a joyful person? What would increase your joy in God?
5. **Ambassador Role:** How effectively are you representing Christ and inviting others into reconciliation with God?

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

**This Week's Challenge:** Choose one area where you need to more fully embrace the reality of your peace with God:

- If you struggle with **assurance**, spend time meditating on Romans 5:1 and what Christ's blood accomplished for you
- If you lack **joy**, practice thanksgiving for specific aspects of your reconciliation to God
- If you avoid **sharing your faith**, pray for one person who needs to hear about peace with God and look for an opportunity to begin that conversation
- If you live under **condemnation**, remind yourself daily that you live in the realm where grace reigns