

(22) "Love of God": The Second Benefit of Justification (5:5-8)

Romans: The Outwork of the Righteousness of God

Justification!—Line of Thought

- The Way of Works Is Impassable (1:18–3:20).
- There Is a Sure Way: Justification by Grace through Faith (3:21-26).
- The New Way Requires Exclusivity (3:27-31).
 - Exclusivity: Faith Alone, Not Faith Plus Works.
 - Universality: All Are Saved in the Same Way.
 - Connectivity: The Law Is the Pointer to the Faith.
- The New Way Was Illustrated by the Life of Abraham (Ch 4).
- The New Life Was Necessitated by the Law (Ch 5).
 - The Benefits of Justification (5:1-11).
 - Peace with God (5:1-4).
 - Love of God (5:5-8).
 - Saved through His Life (5:9-11).
 - The Pointer to Justification (5:12-21).

The 2nd Benefit of Justification

- “⁵ and hope does not disappoint, because the **love of God** has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
- ⁶ For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
- ⁷ For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.
- ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom 5:5-8 NAU)

The 1st Benefit of Justification

- From Rom 5:1-4.
- We Have Been Justified by Faith: Thus
 - We Have **Peace with God**:
 - No More Wars with God.
 - We Are Introduced to, and Have Access to Grace.
 - We Stand in a Position of Received & Irretrievable Grace.
 - We Exult in Hope:
 - Hope Is Assured Faith in a Definite Future of Bliss.
 - We Will Share the Glory of God.
 - We Exult in Tribulation:
 - It Is Given for Our Good.
 - It Generates Perseverance, Proven Character, and Hope.

The Hope That Does Not Disappoint

- “and hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5a)
 - Human Hope Is Often Disappointing:
 - Human Promises Forfeited: Loving Partner.
 - Human Characters Flawed: Righteous Leader.
 - Human History Floundered: Great Kingdom.
 - The Opposite of Hope Is Despair:
 - Despair (Fr: désespoir = dés-espoir): without Hope.
 - Life without Hope Will Die by Withering Away.
 - Divine Hope Will Not Disappoint:
 - The Love Is Real.
 - The Character Is Proven.
 - The Expectation Is Assured.

The Real Love

- “because the **love of God** ...” (Rom 5:5b)
- There Are Many Kinds of Loves:
 - Gk. *Storge*: Liking, Favor; for Family Members.
 - Gk. *Eros*: Physical Attraction, Fleshly Passion; for Lovers and Marriage Partners.
 - Gk. *Phileo*: Emotional Attachment; for Friends.
 - Gk. *Agape*: Determined Will to Do Good for, and Live to Please the Beloved; for God-Man Relationship, and Godly Relationships.

The Real Love

- “because the **love of God** has been poured out within our hearts ...” (Rom 5:5b)
- Truth Is Not Only Owned, but Also Made Known.
- True Love Is Given without Reservation, by Giving All of Self for the Benefit of the Beloved:
 - As God Gave His Only Begotten Son to Redeem Us;
 - As God Gave His Own (Holy) Spirit to Dwell in Us.
- True Love Is Given to the Hearts:
 - It Is Internally Known (in the Soul).
 - It Involves External Services.
 - It Has Mystic Internal Communion: “Chemistry”.

The Real Love

- “because the **love of God** has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Rom 5:5b)
- God’s Ultimate Love for Mankind Is the Giving of the Holy Spirit:
 - It Is Done through the Giving of His Son.
 - It Is the Establishment of the New Covenant Relationship, When God “Tabernacles” in Mankind.
 - This Is Fully Trinitarian Theology!

The New Covenant

- From Jeremiah 31:31-34.
- It Was Intended for Israel, but Extended to the Church
 - ³¹ "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,
- It Is Superior to the Old Covenant (Mosaic):
 - ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke,
- It Leads to Close Personal Relationship with God:
 - although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.
 - ^{33a} "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD,

The New Covenant

- The Quality of the New Covenant Relationship:
- Internalization of the law:
 - ^{33b} "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it;
- Permanent Belonging and Active Communion:
 - ^{33c} and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
- Personal Relationship
 - ^{34a} "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD,
- Once-for-All Forgiveness of Sins:
 - ^{34b} "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." (Jer 31:31-34)

The New Covenant

- From Ezekiel 36:26-29.
- God Will Regenerate Men's Heart & Spirit
 - ²⁶ "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.
- God Will Put His Own (Holy) Spirit in Men's:
 - ^{27a} "I will put My Spirit within you
- God Will Cause People to Voluntarily Obey His Law:
 - ^{27b} and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

The New Covenant

- God Will Restore Israel to the Promised Land:
 - ^{28a} "You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers;
- Israel Will Have Permanent Belonging and Active Communion with God:
 - ^{28a} so you will be My people, and I will be your God.
- Israel Will Be Cleansed:
 - ^{29a} "Moreover, I will save you from all your uncleanness;
- Israel Will Be Blessed:
 - ^{29b} and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring a famine on you. (Ezek 36:26-29)

Do You Feel the Real Love of God?

- Do You Believe That Jesus Is the Son of the Living God? —a Matter of Mind.
- Have You Accepted Him as Your Personal Savior and Lord?—a Matter of Heart.
- Who Caused You to Believe in Him?
- Have You Been Baptized by the Holy Spirit?
- Do You Have the Holy Spirit Living in You?
- Have You Received the Ultimate Love of God?
- Have You Been Listening to the Voice of the Holy Spirit?
- Have You Experienced the Real Love of God?
- What Should You Do Now?

The Impossibility of Self-Salvation

- “⁶ For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.” (Rom 5:6)
- All the Reasoning in the Previous Slide Depends on the Presupposition of the Impossibility of Self-Salvation:
- We Were “**Helpless (Weak)**”: Having No Power to Save Ourselves from Sin (of the World and of Ourselves).
- We Were “**Godless (Ungodly)**”: Having a Nature Contrary to God and Righteousness.
- Christ Came “**Late in Time**” (at the Right Appointed Time) to Redeem the Rebellious, Undeserved Sinners.
- It Is the Ultimate Act of Selfless Love, *Agape*, by Will.

The Righteous and the Good

- “7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.” (Rom 5:7)
- The Righteous Are Those Who Adhere to God’s Moral Standards.
 - They Are Approved by God, but May Not Be Welcomed by Men (Who Are Sinful).
- The Good Are Those Who See the Needs of Men and Fulfills Them.
 - They Are Welcomed by Men, Who May Be Grateful for Having Been Loved (Not Necessarily Corrected).

The Righteous and the Good

- For 4 Times “Righteous” and “Good” Are used Together in NT:
 - “⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the good*, and sends rain on *the righteous* and the *unrighteous*.” (Matt 5:45 NAU)
 - The Evil Are Those Who Do Harmful Things to People; the Good Are Those Who Do the Beneficial.
 - The Righteous Are Those Who Do the Right Things in God’s Standard; the Unrighteous Are the Opposite.

The Righteous and the Good

- “⁵⁰ And a man named Joseph, who was a member of the Council, a good and righteous man.” (Luke 23:50 NAU)
 - A Good Man Is Approved by Men.
 - A Righteous Man Is Approved by God.
- “¹² So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.” (Rom 7:12 NAU)
 - Holiness Is Being of God and Not of the World.
 - Righteousness Is Agreeing with God.
 - Goodness Is Being Beneficial to Men.

The Righteous and the Good

- In Extrabiblical Sources These Two Words Are Distinguished:
 - “God of the OT Is Righteous (Gk: *dikaios*),” but “God of the NT Is Good (Gk: *agathos*)—Irenaeus (*Adv. Haer.* 1.27.1; cf. Douglas Moo, *Romans*, p.308, n.80)
- The Other 3 Times in NT the Two Are Parallel, Not Distinguished. But in Rom 5:7 They Are!
 - No One Will Die for the Righteous: “He Is Approved by God. Let God Take Care of Him!”
 - Some Might Die for the Good: “He Has Been Good to Me. I Want to Be Good to Him!”

The Unimaginable Love

- “⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom 5:8 NAU)
- The Best of Human Love Is to Sacrifice for Someone Who:
 - Is Close to the Person; or
 - Has Done Good to the Person.
- Christ Sacrificed His All Life for the People Who Hated Him and Killed Him!
- No Love Is Greater Than His!

The Greatest Love

John 3:16	The Greatest Love (Cf. Boice, <i>Romans</i> , p. 540)
For God	The Greatest Lover
so Loved	The Greatest Degree
the World	The Greatest Company
that He gave	The Greatest Act
His only begotten Son	The Greatest Gift
that whosoever	The Greatest Opportunity
Believeth	The Greatest Simplicity
in Him	The Greatest Attraction
should not perish	The Greatest Promise
But	The Greatest Difference
Have	The Greatest Certainty
everlasting life	The Greatest Possession

Lessons and Applications

- The Love of God Is Real.
- Giving the Holy Spirit Is the Greatest Love.
- It Came through the Selfless Sacrifice of Christ, Another Greatest Love.
- It Is Unimaginable Love for the Undeserved.
- We Have Nothing to Contribute, but to Be Grateful and Obey.
- Having Believed in Jesus Is the Proof of Having Received the Holy Spirit.
- It Is Time to Listen to Him, and Experience the Sweetness in Obedience.