

Completed

THE FULL PICTURE OF GOD IN
ROMANS

5

DIG DEEPER

YES, NO & MAYBE

1. Most of the people in my life seem to have more peace than me.

2. One day in the future, I will experience peace with God.

3. If I had to die in the place of every single person in this room, I'd question whether a few of you are worth it.

4. God is very one-sided in how He mends our broken relationship with Him.

5. To begin reconciliation with God, we need to initiate a conversation with Him.



Peace With God

READ: Romans 5:1-11 (NIV)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

💡 What does it mean to you to have "peace with God"?

⚠ (Vs. 1) **We have peace with God** - The Greek word for peace is eirēnē (εἰρήνη). The verb is eirō (εἰρῶ), "to bind together that which has been separated." The original context of the term *gospel* was one of war and peace. A "gospel" was originally the reward given to the messenger who bore the good news of victory in battle. Eventually, the word signified the message itself—the good news of victory and peace. How appropriate then for Paul to follow four chapters of explaining the core of the gospel to declare that we have peace with God!

💡 The good news of the gospel is that God has won the battle and peace is at hand. So, why do you think most often the gospel is "explained" rather than "proclaimed" to people?

⚠ (Vs. 2) **We have gained access by faith into this grace** - "Gained access," prosagōgē (προσαγωγή), can mean a landing-stage. Grace here is seen as a haven or harbor, and the word is used of the landing-stages or approach of a ship to the harbor. This is how it is used in secular documents.

💡 How do you see grace as gaining access to a safe harbor? And how did you gain access?

DIG DEEPER...CONTINUED

✓ (Vs. 5) **God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit** - What the Holy Spirit does is to make us deeply and refreshingly aware that God loves us. It is very similar to Paul's later statement that "the Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children" (8:16).

💡 God's greatest effort to help you avoid discouragement is sending His Spirit to do one thing--make you fully aware of how much He loves you. Here, the goal is not to make YOU more loving, but to make you FEEL more loved. What does that tell you about God?

NOTES:

⚠ (Vss. 8,10) **While we were still sinners/while we were God's enemies** - Paul's argument is from the greater to the less. Since God the Son died for us when we were sinners, unlovely and unlovable, rebellious against Him, hating Him, how much more will He save from the future wrath, those who are now in Christ as righteous in their standing as He Himself is in His Person, and as lovely as He is in the sight of God the Father.

💡 Why do you think that historically God has been portrayed as a God who heartlessly condemns His enemies to the fires of hell, not the One who dies for His enemies to give them an opportunity to have eternal life?

⚠ (Vs. 11) **We have now received reconciliation** - "Reconciled" is *katalassō* (καταλασσω), "to change, exchange," hence, "to reconcile" those at variance. The verb means primarily to exchange, and hence to change the relation of hostile parties into a relation of peace; to reconcile. It is used of both mutual and one-sided enmity. In the Christian sense, it's the change in the relation of God and man effected through Christ. This involves a movement of God toward man with a view to break down man's hostility, to command God's love and holiness to him, and to convince him of the enormity and the consequence of sin. It is God who initiates this movement in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

💡 What difference does it make whether your relationship with God is reconciled with Him NOW, or later at the Second Coming?

💡 What does it say to you about God's character that he would be the one who initiates the actions necessary to bring about reconciliation with you?

My Prayers This week:

1. What thoughts are keeping me from having peace with God?
2. How confident am I that am reconciled with God right NOW?
3. What new aspect of God's character do I understand better this week?

