

SERMON NOTES

Peace With God

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Nexus Church
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Rom 5:1-11

opening prayer

Pray that we would lay down striving and receive afresh the peace, grace, and love found in Christ.

ice breaker

What is one thing in your life right now that genuinely gives you a sense of peace? What makes it feel peaceful?

overview

- Peace with the Lord is precious.
- God's love is unconditional and covenantal, not contractual.
- Salvation has a past, present, and future dimension.
- We are called to share in Christ's loving obedience to our Heavenly Father.

3 distinctions of covenantal love

Discuss the following. Covenantal love is:

1. Committed, not conditional.
2. Relational, not transactional.
3. Transformative, not merely declarative.

go deeper

Rom 5:1-11 opens with a radical declaration: through faith in Christ, we have been justified, and we now have peace with God. This is not a fragile, performance-driven peace that comes from striving to earn God's approval. It is a peace rooted entirely in what Christ has accomplished for us.

Throughout history and across world religions, humanity has sought ways to secure peace with the divine, often driven by fear of punishment or misfortune. The gospel offers something radically different, where we do not earn God's favour through religious routine or performance, but receive peace by grace.

Rom 5 goes beyond mere acquittal to reconciliation of relationship; God does not merely declare us innocent but draws us into genuine friendship with himself. His love is not contractual or dependent on our performance, but covenantal and steadfast — both initiated and sustained by Him. Through our union with Christ, His life is increasingly expressed through us, which produces holiness, joy, and victory over sin.

reflection

Pause to consider where you are still trying to earn God's acceptance, approval, or love through your performance, rather than resting in what Christ has already secured for you.

Have a brief moment to allow Holy Spirit to minister to you in this part of your heart.

discussion

- 1 What makes covenantal love difficult to live out when someone has hurt, disappointed, or let you down?
- 2 Where do you find it hardest to love others unconditionally, rather than based on what they do for you?
- 3 What would change in your life if you pursued holiness by remaining connected to Jesus, rather than simply striving to be *better*?

application

Together as a group:

Rev. Adam described a personal practice of meditating on the baptism of Jesus, where the Father says, "*This is my son whom I love. With Him I am well pleased.*" Those words are spoken over us too, because we are *in Christ*. At the beginning and/or end of each day this week, picture yourself being presented to our Father alongside Jesus (or, *in Christ*), and receive those words from the Father as your own.

For the week to come:

If there is a situation in your life causing you genuine pain or frustration, practice the biblical discipline of lament. Rather than venting to others or burying the feeling, bring it directly to God. Be honest. Then ask Him what He wants to show you through it.

closing prayer

- Gratitude for peace with the Lord, secured through and grounded in Jesus, not our performance.
- Revelation of covenantal love in Christ.
- By grace, remaining in His love, from which a life of holiness would flow.