

# LOVED AND SECURE

(Romans 5:6-11)

## INTRODUCTION

We all know the importance to our mental and psychological health the need of feeling loved and secure in our relationships. We all need to feel love and secure. This is one of the most important gifts we can give to our children. Columnist Jennifer Berry Hawes writes:

*There is no greater gift we parents can give to our children than a home that guarantees security and unconditional love. Because everything else — faith, confidence, trust, morality, curiosity — builds from there.*

In a marriage relationship this is one of our greatest needs if we are to have a growing and glowing relationship.

God knows our needs better than we do ourselves. He has done more than enough to guarantee that our relationship with Him is one of being loved and security. This is the ministry of the Holy Spirit, to give us this sense of being loved and secure! We left off from our Romans sermon last week with the picture of the Holy Spirit pouring out into our hearts the love of God.

When I was a younger person I would hear someone say that “God loves you’ and it would seem shallow and cliché-ish. It is easy to hear someone say they love you, but how do you really know it’s not just talk?

Well in Romans 5 God answers this question. He shows that He does love us and that our relationship with him is secure and it is more than talk.

In the first five verses of Romans 5 the emphasis was on security. Does justification by faith last and give us a sure hope. It certainly does. It secures peace with God. It puts us in a place of being surrounded by God’s grace. It causes us to rejoice in hope of the glory of God. It is stronger than any adverse experience we may have on earth. It is a sure hope for eternity.

Now in verses 6-11 the love of God is the focus and Paul argues that we can rejoice in God because **through our Lord Jesus Christ we have now received the reconciliation.** Let’s jump right into this passage and see how strong and certain the love of God is for us.

## CHRIST’S DEATH PROVES GOD’S LOVE FOR US

What would be the ultimate proof that someone loved you? To tell us he did? To buy to a diamond ring? To marry you? To take care of you? These certainly would show love, but the ultimate proof is would the person be willing to die for you and not only be willing but to do it? This is how God proves his love for you. Verses 6-8:

**For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. {7} For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. {8} But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Now we do have people dying for other people today. Our military are willing to put their lives on the line for their country. Our police force does the same. And sometimes they are called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice. But most servicemen and policemen don't voluntarily choose to die. They hope that they will not have to, although they have said that they are willing.

Now on rare occasions people will die for others, but the other is usually someone of importance, like the secret service is willing to take a bullet for the president. Sometimes in a captivity situation, someone will be willing to die so that others may live. But again it is usually for a person who was considered deserving to live.

But God did something unusual. Christ died for you although you are not deserving. He died for you while you were weak, without moral strength. Not only were you without moral strength to do what is right, but while you were ungodly, i.e. your life didn't reflect God in you life. Christ died for you while you were ungodly, but not only were you ungodly, it was while you were a sinner that Christ died for you. You were activity doing what you knew you shouldn't. But Christ died for you. And not only while were you a sinner, in verse 10 it says that you were the enemy of God. You had an animosity towards God, but Christ died for you.

You get the point, don't you? You don't deserve the love of God. You don't deserve Christ dying for you. Yet He did! Don't you think that God loves you? Don't you think that Christ's action proves that He loves you? It is not just a saying that God loves you. It is not a shallow wish. It is not just a cliché, it is a certain thing. God loves you. You are loved. God's love is secure in your life.

The song writer had it right:

Could we with ink the ocean fill,  
And were the skies of parchment made;

Were every stalk on earth a quill.  
And every man a scribe by trade;  
To write the love of god above  
Would drain the ocean dry;  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,  
To' stretched from sky to sky.

## **CHRIST'S LIFE SECURES US FROM THE WRATH OF GOD**

The next line of argument is that if God's love is seen in Christ dying for you, you will be secure for eternity because of Christ's life. Christ's life will save you from the wrath of God. Note that Paul argues from the greater to the lesser or from the more difficult to the less difficult. Verses 9-10:

**{9} Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. {10} For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**

I love the 'much mores' of Romans 5. There are five of them : 9, 10, 15, 17, 20. 'much more we shall be saved from wrath'; 'much more saved by his life'; 'much more the grace of God abounded to many'; 'much more they will reign in life'; 'where sin abounded, grace much more abounded.' This is the argument from the more difficult to the less difficult and is a strong way of saying that the latter is a sure and certain thing.

The argument in verse 9 is that since God has justified us while we were sinners, then surely He will save us from wrath through Christ. The argument in verse 10 is that if God reconciled us to himself by Christ's death when we were enemies, then surely now that we are reconciled He will save us by Christ's life. The argument is from the greater to the lesser or from the more difficult to the less difficult. We can be certain if God has the ability to do the great work of justification and reconciliation, then certainly our relationship with Him will be secure for all eternity.

There is a beautiful story giving a picture of how we will be saved by Christ's life from the wrath of God.

*At Niagara, the American falls takes its dizzy leap over a precipice of 160 feet. Between the face of that precipice and the great overleaping sheet of water, which forms the fall, there is a vacant space called the Cave of the Winds. The guides robe you from head to feet in rubber garments and go*

*before you to lead the way. You follow slowly and cautiously as they make their way literally under the fall. Finally you reach your stopping point. There, as you stand, thousands of tons of water are rushing over that precipice, with a thunderous roar and blinding splash of spray and mist.*

*If you were down where it falls you would be crushed to death in an instant by its savage impact. But though you stand in a spot of great seeming peril, you are perfectly safe; its fury on the jagged rocks beneath. You are safe because you are a passed-over person.*

In justification God's wrath is passed over you and falls upon Christ. His life before God is the shield that causes God's wrath to pass over you. God's love is strong and our relationship is secure through the living Christ. Hallelujah!!

## **OUR JOY & REJOICING IS IN GOD HIMSELF**

Finally the argument is that our joy is not only in our salvation, it is not only in our being saved from wrath, but our joy is in God Himself. Verse 11:

**{11} And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.**

We have received the reconciliation. Reconciliation is between two persons who were alienated or separated from each other and are brought back into a personal relationship of acceptance and love. What separated you from God? Isaiah 59:1-2 tells us:

**(Isa 59:1-2 NKJV) Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. {2} But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.**

“Your iniquities have separated you from your God.” Your sins is what caused the enmity, the hostility, the alienation from God. When God took care of your sin in the death of His Son for you, he enacted reconciliation.

God took the initiative in reconciliation, but you must receive the reconciliation for it to benefit you. As long as you continue living as an enemy of God, the reconciliation is not complete.

D. L. Moody tells a great little story to illustrate this point.

*One Sunday night D. L. Moody preached in a big circus tent near Chicago. His Scripture text was, "The son of man is come to seek and to save the lost." After he had finished the message a little boy was brought to the platform by an officer who had found the child wandering in the crowd, lost. Mr. Moody took him in his arms and asked the crowd to look at the lost child. He said, "The father is more anxious to find the boy than the boy is to be found. It is just so with our heavenly Father. For long years he has been following you, ho sinner. He is following you still!"*

*At that moment a man with a blanched face elbowed his way to the platform. The boy saw him and, funning threw himself into his father's outstretched arms. The multitude, that witnessed the scene, broke into a mighty cheer. "Thus," cried Moody, "will God receive you if you will only run to Him today."*

God the Father has taken the initiative in reconciliation. He was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.. Be reconciled to God.

But the argument that Paul is making in verse 11 is that **"not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ."**

We rejoice in God himself, not just the gifts of God. We have much to be joyful over in salvation, but the greatest object of our joy is God Himself. It is not what God has done for us, but the person of God who loves us and reconciled us to Himself that is the object of our joy.

I am reminded of John Piper's life quote, "God most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." To be satisfied in God is to rejoice in God, to have our greatest joy in God through Christ our Lord.

## CONCLUSION

Do you need to feel loved and secure? Do you need to feel loved and secure in your relationship with God? What more can He do to prove His love to you? Christ died for you while you were weak, while you were ungodly, while you were a sinner, while you were an enemy of God.

If Christ did that for you through His death, how much more will his love sustain and shield you through His life? Through Christ we have that relationship with God.

Will you acknowledge your need for love and security? Will you change your mind about being separated from God and come to the Savior? Just say, "Lord, I come." Then find your joy in God Himself. Amen? Amen!