

Reconciliation With God

Lesson Scope: [Romans 5](#)

Lesson Focus

This lesson is a continuation of the previous lesson, in which the apostle Paul began his declaration of the Gospel. Having established the means of justification, he now deals with the values of justification. Its values are threefold—peace, grace, and hope.

Reconciliation is the bringing together of two parties who were previously estranged. On a human level, this usually involves negotiation and compromise on both sides in order to reach an agreement. On the spiritual level, however, the responsibility for estrangement is one-sided. It was man's sin that marred his relationship with God. But it was God who made the first move to bridge the gap and restore the relationship. This was accomplished through the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To reconcile is to restore to friendship or harmony.

That puts reconciliation in a beautiful light. Jesus addressed the matter of friendship with His disciples (John 15:13-15). At the very core of friendship is love. Jesus showed His love by laying down His life for our redemption. We demonstrate our love for Him by keeping His commandments. John 15:15 is special because it teaches that true friendship is marked by open sharing. Jesus said, "I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." In reconciliation we lay our hearts bare before God in full assurance of faith. We have nothing to hide, because Jesus has taken away our sins.

Justification by faith opens the way for a new relationship between God and man. Peace with God replaces condemnation and wrath, and the reign of grace replaces the reign of sin and death.

Lesson Aim: To present principles related to the justified believer's reconciliation with God.

Theme Verses: [Colossians 1:21-22](#). And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight.

Lesson Text

A New Life

[Romans 5:1-11](#) ¹Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ²By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; ⁴And patience, experience; and experience, hope: ⁵And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. ⁶For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. ⁸But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. ¹⁰For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. ¹¹And not only *so*, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

A New Master

[Romans 5:12-21](#) ¹²Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: ¹³(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. ¹⁵But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. ¹⁶And not as *it was* by one that sinned, *so is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification. ¹⁷For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more

they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)¹⁸ Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life.¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.²⁰ Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:²¹ That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Questions for Study

A New Life

1. What blessings are restored through reconciliation?
2. What purpose do tribulations serve in Christian experience?
3. What does "much more" in Romans 5:9-10 refer to?

A New Master

4. Contrast what we have received through Christ with what we have received from Adam.
5. What is the ultimate realization of reconciliation?
6. What evidences of abundant grace should be visible in a believer's life?

Analyzing the Passage

Verses 1-5 summarize the scope of Christian experience. Peace displaces guilt, grace energizes the walk, and hope brightens the future. In Christ the hardships of life are seen in a new light, and life is enriched by the fruit of the Spirit—divine love.

Verses 6-8 magnify God's love for us. The word commendeth means that God proved, established, or demonstrated His love for man.

The words much more, which are repeated five times in this passage, emphasize the superabundance of Jesus' provision. Jesus not only died for our salvation but also lives to sustain and perfect what He began.

Verses 18-21 summarize the teaching of verses 12-17. The benefits of Christ's work extend far beyond the effects of Adam's choice.

Abound and abounded (5:20), used in reference to sin, mean "to increase." However, when abound refers to the grace of God, a different

Greek word is used, indicating exceeding abundance.

Principles and Applications

A New Life

1. Man enjoys true peace when he is reconciled to God (5:1). Sin brings guilt, fear, and estrangement. After they had sinned, Adam and Eve hid when they heard the voice of God. But now, through justification, we are cleansed from sin, and peace is restored. We give our testimony of peace in the counsel meeting prior to the observance of the Lord's Supper. This helps our relationship with God to stay current.

2. Reconciliation gives the believer a joyful hope for the future (5:2). To be included in God's plans for the future gives purpose and meaning to the present. Our desire is to glorify God and further His kingdom. This goal has present and future involvements.

3. The reconciled person can rejoice in tribulation because it gives opportunity for spiritual growth (5:3-5). Even the difficulties of life take on new meaning when we face them with God. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). This is a wonderful assurance which calms our fears and gives us rest.

4. Reconciliation makes possible a relationship of love with God and our fellow men (5:5-8). When the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, life becomes richer and more satisfying. We have love not only for God and our fellow believers but also for our enemies. Love is the very essence of Christianity!

5. Because of reconciliation, the sentence of divine wrath is lifted (5:9). Jesus' work satisfies the justice of God. In love He reached down and lifted us up. The "much more" of verse 10 speaks of the continued work of Christ in heaven on our behalf. He lives to make intercession for us. If Christ was willing to die for us when we were yet in our sin, how much more will He deliver us from eternal punishment when we love and serve Him in true faith!

A New Master

6. Reconciliation reverses the spiritual death incurred in the Fall (5:12-17). Adam's fall affected the whole race. By one man's offense, death passed upon all men. But by one man, Jesus Christ, the grace of God has abounded unto many. And those who receive this grace shall reign

in life. And so it is written, "The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit" (1 Corinthians 15:45).

7. God offers the blessings of reconciliation to all people (5:18). God's offer of justification reaches as far as the sentence of condemnation. The blood of Christ safely covers the innocent. All who reach the age of accountability have the privilege to choose Jesus as Lord and Saviour. The provision of Christ is for "whosoever believeth in him."

8. The power of grace far exceeds the power of sin (5:20). Our enemy, the devil, is a defeated foe. God is faithful in providing the needed grace to be victorious over sin. He gives strength to face the difficult circumstances that come our way. And He is able to bring us at last to our eternal abode with Him.

Answers to Questions

1. What blessings are restored through reconciliation?

We have peace with God; we are comfortable in His presence. By the grace of God, we have the needed power to live in victory over sin. We also possess the hope of eternal life with God. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. Verse 10 alludes to the fact that Jesus lives to make intercession for the saints.

2. What purpose do tribulations serve in Christian experience?

Trials and tribulations serve to develop patience (unswerving endurance). This endurance develops maturity of character. Character of this sort produces joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation (compare James 1:2-4).

3. What does "much more" in 5:9-10 refer to?

"Much more" in verse 9 refers to the certainty of our deliverance from the indignation and wrath of God. The logic is that our justification required the greater sacrifice and made deliverance from wrath very feasible.

"Much more" in verse 10 refers to our daily deliverance from sin through the power of Christ's resurrection. The logic is the same: the latter is very feasible in light of the first.

4. *Contrast what we have received through Christ with what we have received from Adam.*

Adam

- a. Death—as a result of sin
- b. Condemnation
- c. Death reigned by one
- d. Judgment
- e. Disobedience-many made sinners

Christ

- Life—as a gift of grace
- Justification
- The righteous reign in life
- Justification of life
- Obedience-many made righteous

5. *What is the ultimate realization of reconciliation?*

The ultimate realization of reconciliation is eternal life. "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable" (1 Corinthians 15:19). If life ended with the grave, cross bearing and self-denial would be empty. Thank God for the eternal glory that awaits! No sacrifice is too great to gain that bliss!

6. *What evidences of abundant grace should be visible in a believer's life?*

This question reflects back over the whole text. Of prime importance is the outworking of God's love that is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. This involves brotherly love, nonresistance, and loving our enemies. Those looking on are also amazed at the Christian's composure in the face of tribulation and death. The world also notices the practical outworking of a life that is lived according to the principles of righteousness.

Important Teachings

- 1. Man enjoys true peace when he is reconciled to God (5:1).
- 2. Reconciliation gives the believer a joyful hope for the future (5:2).
- 3. The reconciled person can rejoice in tribulation because it gives opportunity for spiritual growth (5:3-5).
- 4. Reconciliation makes possible a relationship of love with God and our fellow men (5:5-8).
- 5. Because of reconciliation, the sentence of divine wrath is lifted (5:9).
- 6. Reconciliation reverses the spiritual death incurred in the Fall (5:12-17).
- 7. God offers the blessings of reconciliation to all people (5:18).
- 8. The power of grace far exceeds the power of sin (5:20).

Summarizing the Lesson

What a blessing it is to be reconciled to God! Instead of being condemned, we are justified. Instead of guilt, we have peace. Instead of despair, we have access to God. Instead of fearing the future, we rejoice in hope. Instead of being bound by sin, we reign in righteousness by Jesus Christ. Let us guard our restored relationship with the Father as our most valuable treasure.

Research Guide

1. Using a chain-reference Bible, trace the thought of reconciliation in the Epistles, starting with verse 10 of the lesson text.
2. Read John 15 and note the similarity of Christ's teaching and the lesson text.