

Resources for engaging further

- View the Sunday message online at vcclive.org.
- For further reading
 - Read Romans 5-8
 - Read the book of Romans in its entirety
- Prayer support

How can this group support you in prayer this coming week?



From Ruined to Reconciled

Romans 5:1-11

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Humanity ruined

Justification initiates restoration (Romans 3:21-24 & 5:1-2)

Threats and assurances of hope (Romans 5:3-11)

Our response—a ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-19)



From Ruined to Reconciled

Romans 5:1-11

Message-based Group Lesson

Overview

Humanity has been ruined by the ravages and consequences of sin and our resulting brokenness. Yet in Romans, Paul speaks of our justification and ultimate reconciliation with God. In this week's message we look at three of the benefits and blessings of our justification—peace with God, access into His grace, and the hope of the glory of God. By God's initiative and through our faith in Christ we move from the destruction of sin into reconciliation and even friendship with God our Father!

Engaging with each other

1. Describe a time in your life where you felt powerless to change your situation.
2. Share about a time when you needed to reconcile with someone in a relationship.

Engaging with the Bible

1. Read Romans 5:1-2. In verses 1 and 2, Paul outlines his themes for Romans chapters 5-8. What themes does he mention?
2. Read Romans 5:3-8. According to Paul, what is the role of suffering in our having hope? Share an example from your life.
3. What does Paul say is the basis for our hope? What role does the Holy Spirit have in this?
4. How does God's remarkable demonstration of love in verse 8 address questions like, "does God really love me?" or "am I good enough or worthy of His love?"

5. Read Romans 5:9-11 (from multiple translations). In this passage, the NIV and many other translations use the word "reconciled," while the NLT uses the word "friends." In what sense do these two words strike you differently and how do they help to clarify what Paul was saying?

Engaging with our lives

1. In Sunday's message, three benefits of justification were given: peace with God, access into His grace, and the hope of the glory of God. Which of these mean the most to you in your current circumstances?
2. What is your emotional response to the depth of God's love for you?
3. In the message, sin was referred to as something that "twists everything," and that it is "like the act of a traitor." What impact has the reality of sin made on your life?
4. Contrast the kind of friend we have in Jesus with the way we normally view friendship in our culture.
5. As a friend of Jesus, how can you invest in your friendship? What is the role of reading and reflecting on Scripture in your relationship?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. What is the "ministry of reconciliation" Paul is referring to?
7. In view of our reconciliation with God, how does this impact our reconciliation with one another? Is there someone you need to reconcile with? What step can you take this week to initiate reconciliation with them?