

Just A Minute! *With Scripture*

The King James Bible is used for all references. Verses may be made bold for emphasis.

TOPIC: Application of Romans 5

God's Grace & Love is Our Example, Teaching Us Many Things

Romans 5 shows to us God's selfless grace attitude. He loves every single person as a Father who cherishes His offspring (Acts 17:28). Let's review a few ways from this chapter.

*God loves the **ungodly**. By nature humans are children of wrath, having the spirit of Satan (Ephesians 2:2) and not able to exhibit godliness: "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." (Rom.5:6)

*He values each **sinner**. Man has a deceitful heart (Jer. 17:9), being desperately wicked. "But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8) The unbeliever is unable to bring forth anything acceptable to our Lord Jesus, but God offers us all things freely, He wants us to learn how to use them.

*The Father even cares for His **enemies**: Man knows there's judgment against him for his ungodliness and unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18). Yet, he not only continues to do ungodly things, but has pleasure in other's wickedness (Rom. 1:32), even killing our Lord. "For 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." (Rom. 5:10)

How can knowing this help us to functionally live each day?

1. God's love can motivate us to live a life pleasing to Him as we allow the Word to dwell in us: "And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again." (II Cor. 5:15) God gave us access to His wisdom and power, so now we can dwell on His Word to apply it in the details of life. It's surely a privilege to walk by faith in what He teaches, listening to God to live His will and godliness.

2. His Truth and love can fully persuade us: Once we trust the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, we are totally forgiven all sin: past, present, and future sin. This frees us to stop trying to be a good person to gain acceptance from God or anyone else. We can rest, be thankful, and have total confidence in God's great love, allowing Christ to live within us.

3. Choosing His life: We can return God's love by being a living sacrifice unto others. Be ready and read His Word.

The Lord Jesus Christ Also Manifested Grace & Love

The Lord Jesus also exhibited these two qualities toward mankind. He submitted to God's will to die, and experienced great anguish. He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane: "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done...And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." (Luke 22:42,44)

He was God, but humbled Himself and became a servant for us: "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (Philippians 2:6-8)

God the Son freely and in love, took upon Himself all our sin, in the ultimate contradiction of His character, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (II Corinthians 5:21)

Even at the very end of the Lord's life on the cross, He shows amazing grace and selfless love: "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them: for they know not what they do..." (Luke 23:34)

The Lord Jesus desires us to learn this selfless love and teach others the Truth as a living sacrifice. This is a powerful example of patience and longsuffering. As we're wronged, this type of love and forgiveness can work in us by His mighty Word. Yield & trust.



Search it out!

Choose Something to Study in This Section

Romans 5: Comparisons & Contrasts Study Skill

Examine verses!



Chapter 5 of Romans teaches the reader to pay attention to comparisons and contrasts. This is a study tool found on Page 16 in “Exploring the Bible Using Study Tools,” available through Amazon.

Comparisons and Contrasts: Read slowly to notice when God uses this teaching approach and meditate upon the passage to see what this study skill can teach you from the Word.

1. Romans 5 contrasts Adam with the Lord Jesus: Specific comparison-contrasting phrases are used: ‘not as,’ ‘like as,’ ‘so also,’ ‘even so,’ etc. In some cases, it may help to make a side-by-side list of what is being taught for each subject in the comparison and contrast analysis. Then, evaluate how the two lists are different and similar. This kind of study can reveal a concrete picture of what is being taught.

2. Skim through I Corinthians 15:20-22: Notice that this is another place where Paul uses the Lord Jesus Christ and compares Him with Adam.

3. Review I Corinthians 15:35-54: Target the comparisons made here to known things seen around us. This helps us understand the resurrection. Paul also makes contrasts in this section. Are they visible to you?

4. Read II Corinthians 6:14-16: This study skill is being used to make contrasts between a believer and unbeliever. How many can you find? Does it help you?

5. Read with purpose: a) As you read Paul’s epistles, notice distinct similarities/differences between Israel and the Body of Christ. **b)** This tool can be found through the Bible. Put this comparison-contrast study tool in the back of your mind as a resource. As you read, slow down when it’s observed to help you understand the passage with more depth.

**Newer students: Focus on ‘reading’ Scripture rather than on using many new study insights.*

What Does Grace Look Like in a Relationship?

Romans 12 instructs us about a ‘loving, grace way’ of living with other members of the Body of Christ. In *Romans 1-11*, God lays forth three examples manifesting this selfless, agape love in order to transform our thinking to the mind of Christ: God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and our Apostle Paul. Reflection on the way they manifested love and grace can help us understand how to live it in relationships. Let us therefore now look at the last example. In Acts, we read about Paul and how Israel relentlessly sought to do him bodily harm. Yet notice the loving kindness he still had for them: *“That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh.”* And, *“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.”* (*Romans 9:2-3, 10:1*)

As we are conformed to Christ by sound doctrine in Paul’s epistles, godly thinking and living begins to be manifested. *“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”* (*Romans 8:29*)

By the time we come to *Romans 12* in faith, we start to learn godly labor. As we yield unto God, this agape love will be manifest: it is not self-centered, nor apathetic to the needs and situations of other members of our own body. *“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.”* (*Romans 12:10*) It is preferring them, caring about others, and their feelings and needs. When they are joyful or cry, we also rejoice or weep. When they have needs, it naturally motivates us to help them, according to the wisdom and power of God within us; preferring them over our own selves. *“And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.”* (*I Corinthians 12:26*)

Examples of grace in relationships: 1) As relatives or friends grow old, they may have time and labor intensive needs that are inconvenient. Yet, we can allow God to put aside our flesh, to respond in grace: without condition, nor bitterness, serving in selfless love, constrained by the love of Christ *“For the love of Christ constraineth us...”* (*II Cor. 5:14*). **2)** After a short time of marriage, couples realize their partner is not perfect. God’s grace is sufficient for all things, so we can yield to God to patiently endure, allowing them in grace to grow. **God does this work in us!**



If I'm honest, I must acknowledge that I still exalt myself and sometimes think 'I can do this life' without God. Yet, here is the reality: *"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing..." (Rom. 7:18)*. I'm still quite selfish at times, deceiving myself, accusing others or else excusing my own sinful ways. We're to be aware of worldly patterns that 'dwell' in our thoughts and heart as it determines our walk. To 'dwell' means to live in, feel at home, or comfortably reside. If self-exalted views remain, ungodliness can rule.

'Dwelling' on worldly ways is NOT who we are! Rather, we have a new identity, 'in Christ.' Having a renewed mind, together with self-awareness is key so grace can reign. There seems to be three major aspects in this process:

1: Renew our mind, knowing we fall short of God's glory. We need to be conformed to the mind of Christ, that is, read and study the Word and believe it in faith. *"For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword..." (Heb. 4:12)* God changes us within as we really **listen** to Him. (Romans 10:17)

2: Really read and listen to sound doctrine on a daily basis to have the mind transformed; then, we are to put it into practice. What is sound doctrine? While all the Bible is written for our learning (*Rom. 15:4*), all of it is not written 'to us,' the Body of Christ. We need to rightly divide the Word (II Tim. 2:15). Basically, this means to realize the context. Some sections of the Bible are written 'to Israel' and others are specifically directed 'to the Body of Christ.' Paul's epistles, Romans thru Philemon are written particularly 'to us,' the Church.

3: Meditate/think on what God teaches us and yield by the Spirit (Rom. 8:14). This is really listening to God the Spirit, who is leading us through the verses to help us apply them in our life. *"That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."* (Rom. 5:21)

As we yield to verses 'dwelling' in us, we're allowing God's righteousness to rule/reign in our mortal body. *"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."* (Rom. 8:11)

How do we choose to have grace reign in us? The process begins in *Romans 6-8*. It teaches 'grace living' to us. If you have not read and studied it recently for yourself, purpose to do so this week. We're to give God the controls and allow Christ to dwell within to be 'the life, power, and wisdom' living out of us. However, the execution of it is often a learning process. We need to allow God to set aside our flesh, so His grace can reign. The flesh doesn't like us to yield to God, so it will balk and try to hinder us, but focus above & walk by faith.

Grace Reigns by Love: An Outline of I Corinthians

The goal of *I Corinthians* is to help saints grow spiritually. Each of Paul's epistles have an important place in our edification. *Romans* is the foundation. Next, *I Corinthians* builds, helping us practically deal with problems to allow grace to reign. *"But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man."* (*I Cor. 2:15*)

Outline of I Corinthians:

Chapter 1: God's wisdom and power is contrasted by man's.

Chapter 2: God has a way for us to attain His wisdom and power to judge (discern) all things and develop the mind of Christ.

Chapter 3: There's a sowing and reaping process to decisions...it matters to God.

Chapter 4: Man lacks wisdom: puffs up himself and disregards God's instruction.

Chapter 5: The Church is not thinking and living according to who they are in Christ.

Chapter 6: Saints do not understand they have been separated unto God.

Chapter 7: Example 1: Judgments within relationships. The key is love and grace.

Chapter 8: Example 2: Judgments with weaker brethren is based on godly love.

Chapter 9: Example 3: Judgment in love motivates giving and acceptable service.

Chapter 10: Example 4: A godly viewpoint will help us deal with sin/idolatry.

Chapter 11: Example 5: Using wise judgments, while living God's ordinances.

Chapter 12: Example 6: Godly discernments using spiritual gifts: there are roles and order within the Godhead.

Chapter 13: Example 7: Judgment and service is to be based upon charity/grace.

Chapter 14: Order in spiritual gifts enables wisdom and understanding.

Chapter 15: Making wise judgments about the Truth of the Resurrection saves believers from being pulled aside by false doctrine and derailed.

Chapter 16: Grace: making wise decisions in godly love service toward others.

Read through this book slowly to apply it to the details of your life. This enables grace to begin to reign in you.

Christian Life Coach Support Services
 (804) 519-1210 - lifecoachesdjbj@yahoo.com
 Website: Christianlifecoachsupport.squarespace.com

Stamp

To:

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 3:24)

Saved, No Longer in Sin

By Erin Alexander

Sinner...this word strikes fear and guilt in many Christians. *Romans 5:6* states “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.” However, many still see themselves as unworthy of God’s love. What does it mean to be ungodly? It means to be unlike God. And who is God? The Bible tells us. He has many attributes.

Colossians 1:17 He is Sovereign
Numbers 23:19 He is Immutable
Isaiah 46:9-10 He is Omniscient
Isaiah 66:1-2 He is Omnipresent
Job 37:23 He is Omnipotent

Revelations 1:8 He is infinite
Isaiah 41:10 He is Just
Psalms 11:7 He is Righteous
Joel 2:13 He is Grace
1 John 3:1 He is Love

God is all of this and more. Is there anyone that can even come close to one of the words listed? If there is, I’d sure love to meet them. God is perfect, we’re not. God is just and righteous, we’re not. Not in our flesh. We will never measure up on our own, it is impossible.

Ephesians 2:8 says, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” We cannot earn our salvation. And no one can claim they don’t need it, not if they’re being honest. No person can be like God. However, if you are saved, you become perfect in His eyes. That is the only way to **earn** His grace, by believing on what Christ did on the cross. All sins become as far as the east is to the west. You become a new creature, a co-heir with Christ. We must stop looking at ourselves as sinners without hope **if** we can’t be better. Once we’re saved from the penalty of sin, we have imputed righteousness (*Romans 4*) and seen by God as perfect and complete in Christ (*Colossians 2:10*).

Christian Life Coach Support Services

Writers/Editors: Brian/Deborah Johnson
 Certified Christian Life Coaches
 (804) 519-1210 lifecoachesdjbj@yahoo.com
Website: Christianlifecoachsupport.squarespace.com

About Our Grace Ministry: Contact us if you’re interested in the opportunities below or have questions, or need help.

Christian Life Coaching Applying Pauline Truth in the details of life

What is Coaching? It is a helping service, which includes Bible instruction, mentoring, support, and applying Scripture to life situations for personal growth. The Scripture is used as our primary resource. Options: In-person/phone/skype, Coaching and teaching: individuals, couples, and groups (support groups/retreats/presentations).

Periodical

Just A Minute: Monthly Grace newsletter providing Bible study, edification, and life application with sound doctrine.

Books

- *What to Appreciate As We Approach God’s Word*
- *How the Bible is Practical & Able to Mature Believers*
- *Growing Up In Christ To Become A Mature Believer*
- *Romans Study Guide*
- *Discovering God’s Glorious Treasure*
- *Exploring the Bible Using Study Tools*

Join Us For Fellowship & Bible Study In the Richmond, Virginia Area

Family Study: Sunday’s 6:30-8:00 pm
Ladies Study: Wednesdays, 10:30-12
Call For Locations: (804) 519-1210

Request subscriptions/past issues or forward questions to writers and editors, Brian & Deborah Johnson.