

The Power of God's Love

Romans 5:6-11

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

“Grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us more... and there is nothing we can do to make God love us less.”

Philip Yancey

Cody Hall –

-runaway, addict, thief, convict, homeless

- on the street at age 13

“If we do not show love to one another, the world has a right to question whether Christianity is true.”

Francis Schaeffer

The power of God's grace is evident when we show love to the undeserving and unworthy.

God's grace is seen when we love...

1. The helpless

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
Rom 5:6

Weak –

- “without strength” (KJV)
- “powerless” (NIV)
- “unable to deliver themselves”
(Robert Jamieson Commentary)
- “helpless” (NASAB)
- “utterly helpless” (NLT)

“Grace is love that cares
and stoops and rescues.”

John R. W. Stott

“The kingdom of God is for the spiritually sick who want to be healed,
who want to be cleansed,
the spiritually poor who want to be rich, the spiritually dead who
want to be alive.”

John MacArthur Jr.

2. The hurting

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, who loved us
and gave us eternal comfort and
good hope through grace.

2 Thess. 2:16

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress,
or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger or sword?

Rom. 8:35

Tribulation – trouble with circumstances
Distress – pressures or obstacles – “stress”
Persecution – people who are against you.
Famine – trouble with provisions
Nakedness – lack of personal needs
Danger – lack of security or safety
Sword - death

Can anything become a wedge between us and the love of Jesus?

NO!

Can anything cause the love Jesus
has for us to stop or run dry?

NO!

3. The unholy

Picture of Cooper
here

... love covers all offenses.

Prov. 10:12

Whoever covers an offense seeks love,
but he who repeats a matter separates close friends. Prov. 17:9

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude
of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

A person's failure does not – disqualify themselves from God's love.

A person's performance does not qualify them for God's love.

Love “covers” sin

- . It does not advertise it.
- . It does not bring it to the spotlight.
- . It does show compassion as it covers
the shame of another.

- . It does not condone sin or make excuses.
 - . It pushes past the sin and sees the value of the person.
- Do you see only their sin or
do you see them?

But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8

Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are forgiven. Rom. 4:7

God shows His love (Present tense – continuous action)

- . Puts on display
- . Demonstrates (NIV, NASB)
- . Proves (NRSV)
- . Commendeth (KJV)
- . Manifests, exhibits

“Sinners”

- . Universal – Rom. 3:23
- . Severe – Rom. 6:23a
- . Rebellion, disobedience, fall short, turn away, resist, reject, transgress, harden our hearts.

“Unconditional love corresponds to one of the deepest longings, not only of the child, but of every human being; on the other hand, to be loved because of one’s merit, because one deserves it, always leaves doubt; maybe I do not please the person whom I want to love me, maybe this, or that – there is always a fear that love could disappear.” (Eric Fromm – “The Art of Loving”)

The law condemns the best of us.

Grace saves the worst of us.

Love people when they least expect it.

Love people when they least deserve it.

Mark Batterson

“Grace like water flows to the lowest levels. Its when we come to the end of ourselves, that we come to the beginning of grace.”

God’s grace is known when we love...

1. With kindness

Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness and honor. Prov. 21:2

... through love serve one another.

Gal. 5:13

... Love your neighbor as yourself. (14)

Be kind to one another...

Eph. 4:32

Put on compassionate hearts, kindness...

Col. 3:12

“An act of love will
thaw a frozen heart.”

from Frozen movie

2. With patience

Love is patient.

1 Cor. 13:4

3. With Sacrifice

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died.

2 Cor. 5:14-15

And He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised. (15)

By this we know love that He laid down His life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 1 Jn. 3:16

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. Jn. 15:13

“We never know how much one loves til we know how much he is willing to endure and suffer for us; it is the suffering element that measures love.”

Henry Ward Beecher