

## Sermon Series: Romans

Sermon Text: Romans 5:3-11 Hope in the Trinity of Love

**The love of the Holy Trinity makes suffering serve our sanctification.**

### 1) Suffering and sanctification (5:3-4)

- a) “boast in our sufferings”—“tribulations” connotation of Messianic woes; sharing in suffering of Christ’s kingdom
- b) “suffering produces endurance”—exercising faith, hope, and love
- c) “endurance produces character”—Christlikeness
- d) “character produces hope”—Christlikeness a foretaste of resurrection
- e) **Application:**
  - i) Suffering is varied and evil.
  - ii) The assurance of God’s love makes suffering sanctifying.

### 2) The peace-making love of God the Father (5:5, 8-10)

- a) “God’s love” (5:5) is the Father’s love (5:10, “death of His Son”)
- b) We were “weak” (5:6a), “ungodly” (5:6b) “sinners” (5:8), under “the wrath of God” (5:9), and “enemies” (5:10)
- c) We are “justified” (5:9) and “reconciled” (5:10)
- d) We will be “saved from the wrath of God” (5:9, 10)
- e) **Application:**
  - i) The Father is not made loving toward us by the death of Christ. He loved us and sent His Son for us.
  - ii) Argument from greater to lesser: If God loved us while we were still His enemies, surely He will continue loving us now that we are reconciled to Him.

### 3) The love of God applied by the Holy Spirit (5:5b)

- a) “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us”
- b) Holy Spirit is Gift
- c) Holy Spirit is Love
- d) Holy Spirit reaches the command and control center of our being (“our hearts”) to rule us by the love of God
- e) **Application:**
  - i) The inner witness of the Holy Spirit is the Spirit’s confirmation of the Scriptural witness to us of God’s love.
  - ii) The Spirit discloses Christ to us, instructing our thoughts, confirming our faith, and warming our love.

### 4) The love of God demonstrated in Christ (5:6-8)

- a) “at the right time Christ died”—kairos has connotation of fixed time; appointed time (cf. Gal. 4:4 “fulness of time”); the time appointed by the Father
- b) Argument from lesser to greater: Dying for a decent person would be altruistic. How much more magnanimous that Christ died for you when you were an ungodly sinner!
- c) “God shows His love”—proves credibility by accompanying claim with action
- d) **Application:** Look to Christ crucified.

**The love of the Holy Trinity makes suffering serve our sanctification.**

**Application:**

- Defeat doubt by listening to the Spirit in Scripture.
- Defeat doubt by looking to Christ.
- Defeat doubt living with the Father (*coram deo*).

**Doxology:** To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 1:5b-6)