

February 22-23, 2025

Title: Romans: The Free Gift, Pt 4: “The Love, Confidence, and Rejoicing of Justification” – Romans 5:5-11

Big Idea: Be filled with the love, confidence, and rejoicing of justification by faith alone.

Read Romans 5:5-11.

What in the message stood out to you?

What questions do you have?

1. The LOVE of justification – Romans 5:5-8

Read Romans 5:5. The love of justification is poured out through the Holy Spirit. It is a supernatural experience. What do you think it means to have the love of God poured into your heart?

Read Romans 8:9. How does it encourage you to know that every believer is given the Holy Spirit to indwell them?

While the Holy Spirit indwells every believer, being FILLED with the Spirit is an ongoing experience that can be more or less at different times (see Ephesians 5:18). What do you think is the difference between having the Spirit and being FILLED with the Spirit?

Romans 5:6-8 seems to suggest that the best way to have the FEELING of the love of God poured into our hearts is to focus on and believe the FACTS of God’s love for us. In other words, what we FEEL at any given moment reveals what we are thinking, believing, and valuing in that moment. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

What are some examples of FEELINGS that reflect what we think, believe, or value?

Read Romans 8:6-8. How does it help you feel loved by God to think about Him giving His Son to die for you when you were weak and sinful?

God’s love for us is not based on something in us or about us. It is based solely on something in Him and about Him. Do you believe there is nothing you can do to make Him love you more or less? Why or why not?

2. The CONFIDENCE of justification – Romans 5:9-10

Read Romans 5:9-10. These two verses contain logical arguments from the greater to the lesser. Based on verse 9, what is the greater thing and what is the lesser thing? Based on verse 10, what is the greater thing and what is the lesser thing?

Verse 9 teaches that we should have confidence that we will be saved from the wrath of God because He has already justified us by the blood of His Son. How does it encourage you to know that the love of God rescues us from the wrath of God?

Verse 10 teaches that we should have confidence that we will be saved by the life of Jesus now that we are His friends because we have already been reconciled by the death of Jesus when we were His enemies. What do you think it means to that we have been reconciled to God?

Read Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25, and John 10:28-29. What is Jesus doing now? How does these verses give you confidence that you will never lose your salvation?

3. The REJOICING of justification – Romans 5:11

Read Romans 5:11. What do you think it means to rejoice in God? How is this different from rejoicing in His blessings?

Why is rejoicing in God the greatest evidence and blessing of being justified by faith?

Ask yourself and reflect on why or why not: Do you rejoice in God? Do you rejoice in having peace with Him? Do rejoice in having access to Him? Do you rejoice in the hope of being with Him forever? Do you rejoice in your sufferings because they deepen your experience of Him?

“Next Step” Takeaways – Discuss and pray through the following:

- With God:
 - Pursue being filled with the Spirit this week by memorizing Romans 5:1-11, actively believing it, and asking God to pour His love into your heart.
- With Others:
 - Write out some prayers for other believers this week based on Romans 5:1-11 and email or text these prayers to them.
 - If you are new to the faith or new to the church, register for and attend the “First Step Welcome Lunch” on Sunday 3/2 at 12:15pm
- On Mission:
 - Help lead others into the blessings of justification by going on one of our short-term missions trips this summer