

The Blessings of Being Right with God

Can you imagine having the type of relationship with God in which you have nothing to prove and nothing to hide because it's already whole and healthy? Can you imagine a relationship in which you can simply be yourself because you already have peace with God? Today, as we return to our study of Romans, Paul writes that those who have been justified by faith now have "peace with God." He wants the believers in Rome (and us) to understand and accept that our relationship with God is already whole. And in Paul's mind, understanding and believing this changes everything. There are great blessings in being right with God!

Opening Discussion: What are you looking forward to about getting back to our study of Romans?

Read Romans 5:1-5

1. What are some results of the gospel that this passage articulates?
2. Why does being justified give us peace with God?

Steve said:

"We have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." The Greek word that is translated peace is often used to translate the Hebrew word *shalom*. If you have *shalom* with someone, you not only aren't at war with that person; positively, you also have a whole, healthy relationship. Paul says that those who have been justified by faith "have peace with God." He's not primarily talking about our subjective experience of peace; he's talking about the objective reality behind our experience. If you have been justified by faith, your war with God is over. You now have a whole, healthy relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

3. Do you ever find it hard to believe that "your war with God is over" and that you have a "whole, healthy relationship with God"? Why or why not?
4. Steve made the point that "peace with God is the foundation of our growth and maturity." Why might that be true?

5. What does it mean that we stand in grace (v. 2)?

Steve said:

I'd encourage you to do an exercise in grace. Identify some area of your life in which you need grace - a relationship, a circumstance, an area of your life that needs to be changed. Begin this exercise by simply asking God to give you what you need. When we pray, we're told in Hebrews 4:16, we "draw near with confidence to the throne of grace" so that we might receive mercy/grace in our time of need. Put aside thoughts of proving to God that you deserve His help; day after day you simply ask Him for a gift. And then keep your eyes open to how He might be delivering that gift. You're not making a deal with God, you're not trying to fix your situation on your own, you're simply asking for a gift.

6. What's an area of your life in which you need grace?

7. What does Paul say about hope in this passage (2b-5)?

8. Why does hope not disappoint (NIV - "put us to shame")(v. 5)?

9. Which of these three blessings of being right with God (peace with God; standing in grace; living in confidence in God's commitment to finish what He's begun) do you feel the greatest need to continue to reflect on?