



## ROMANS PART 2 - A NEW HUMANITY: ENEMIES TO FRIENDS

### Peace With God Changes Everything

Romans 5:1-11

“Enemies to Friends”

Peace with God becomes the foundation for peace in every other area of life.

Jesus did not make peace by destroying His enemies, but by dying for them.

#### **Context: Enemies Becoming Family**

Romans was written into deep tension between Jews and Gentiles in the early church:

- Jews had been expelled from Rome under Emperor Claudius and later returned
- During their absence, the church became predominantly Gentile
- When Jewish believers returned, conflict emerged over culture, leadership, traditions, and identity

The major question:

How could Jews and Gentiles become one family when they had spent generations divided?

The deeper issue underneath it all:

How can sinful humanity be made right with God?

Paul’s answer:

Not through law, performance, or religious achievement.

Through faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:21-22

“We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.”

Romans 5 begins showing the result of that reconciliation

Enemies becoming friends.

Not only between people—but between humanity and God.

### **1. Peace With God Is the Foundation of Everything**

Romans 5:1

“Since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.”

Paul writes this during the time of the Pax Romana (“Roman Peace”):

- Rome maintained peace through violence, fear, taxation, oppression, and military force
- Peace existed because enemies were crushed into submission

But God’s peace looks completely different

Rome killed its enemies to establish peace.

Jesus died for His enemies to establish peace.

Illustration: Enemies to Friends

Pastor’s Dave story of high school volleyball rivals:

- Rival schools hated each other
- Competition created hostility and assumptions
- But during club season, they suddenly became teammates
- Rivals became friends through shared identity and relationship

That is the Gospel story:

We who were enemies of God have now become friends through Jesus.

Peace with God means:

- God is no longer against you
- Your relationship with Him has been restored
- Jesus absorbed the judgment we deserved
- You are welcomed into friendship with God

Faith gives us peace not because life becomes easy, but because our relationship with God becomes secure.

## 2. Peace With God Changes How We View Trials

Romans 5:3-5

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials...”

Problems and trials often feel like a lack of peace:

- Financial pressure
- Anxiety
- Relationship struggles
- Sickness
- Uncertainty
- Loss

When life lacks peace externally, we often assume:

“God must be against me.”

But Paul says the opposite:

If you are in Christ, you already have peace with God.

Your trials are not evidence of God’s rejection.

They are not proof of condemnation.

Romans 8 later says:

“There is now no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.”

Illustration: Muscle Growth

Muscles grow through resistance and strain.

In the same way:

- Trials produce endurance
- Endurance forms character
- Character strengthens hope

God can transform suffering into formation.

The Holy Spirit reminds us:

God is for you.

Romans 5:5

“He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.”

Peace means:

- God is not abandoning you
- God is not punishing you
- God is working even in difficulty
- God is forming you through what you face

Outer circumstances may lack peace,  
but inwardly we can still have peace with God.

## 3. God’s Peace Is Rooted in Enemy Love

Romans 5:6-8

“Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.”

Most people might sacrifice themselves for someone they deeply admire.

But Jesus died for sinners.

For enemies.

Romans 5:10

“While we were still his enemies...”

This changes everything about how we understand God.

The cross is not only forgiveness of guilt.

It is also the ultimate act of enemy love.

Jesus:

- Didn’t wait for us to improve first
- Didn’t love us after we cleaned ourselves up
- Didn’t reconcile us once we became worthy

He loved us while we were still rebels.

Illustration: The Contrast Between Caesar and Jesus

Caesar used power to crush enemies.

Jesus used sacrifice to rescue enemies.

One creates fear.

The other creates reconciliation.

God’s peace is not forced submission.

It is restored relationship.

Peace with God means:

- God is for you
- God pursued you
- God loves you even at your worst
- God moved toward you before you moved toward Him

#### **4. Peace With God Produces Hope**

Romans 5:10

“We will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.”

Salvation has past, present, and future dimensions:

- We WERE saved when we trusted Jesus
- We ARE BEING saved as God transforms us daily
- We WILL BE saved into eternal life with Him

This creates hope.

Hope is not pretending everything is fine.

Hope is confidence that God’s story is not finished yet.

Because we have peace with God:

- Suffering is not meaningless
- Trials are not permanent
- Death is not the end
- God will finish what He started

Peace with God becomes the anchor beneath every storm.

Maybe life is not peaceful right now.

But because of Jesus, your future is secure.

#### **5. Peace With God Leads to Peace With Others**

If God crossed the gap between Himself and humanity,  
then surely we can cross the gap toward one another.

Paul is ultimately preparing Jews and Gentiles to realize:  
If Jesus made peace with His enemies,  
we can become peacemakers too.

Illustration: Buttoning a Shirt

If the top button is off,  
every other button becomes misaligned.

Peace starts at the top:

Peace with God.

When that relationship is restored,  
everything else begins to align:

- Forgiveness
- Humility
- Reconciliation
- Relationships
- Community

If God forgave me,  
I can forgive others.

If God pursued peace with me,  
I can pursue peace with others.

If Jesus humbled Himself for His enemies,  
I can humble myself too.

Often our struggle to love others reveals how little we understand  
how much Jesus loved us.

Conclusion: Button Up Your Shirt

Start with the top button:

“Jesus, thank you for dying for me while I was still your enemy.”

Then move downward:

- Who do I need to forgive?
- Who do I need to reconcile with?
- What pride do I need to lay down?
- Who have I judged instead of loved?
- Where do I need to become a peacemaker?

Through Jesus:

Enemies become friends  
Sinners become family  
Peace becomes possible

God is not looking to destroy His enemies.  
He is inviting them home.

### **Study & Discussion**

When life feels difficult, are you more likely to believe God is for you or against you? Why?  
What area of your life currently feels most lacking in peace? (relationships, finances, health, future, emotions, etc.)  
How does knowing that Jesus died for you while you were still a sinner change your understanding of God's love?  
Why do you think it is often easier to receive forgiveness from God than to extend forgiveness to others?  
Who is someone you may need to move toward in peace, humility, or reconciliation this week?

### **Practice of the Week: Become a Peacemaker**

This week, intentionally respond to conflict, tension, or anxiety from your peace with God—not from fear or pride.

#### **Step 1: Remember Your Peace With God**

Take 5 minutes each day to remind yourself:  
"I am not condemned. God is for me."

Read Romans 5:1 slowly:  
"We have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us."

#### **Step 2: Identify One Area of Conflict or Tension**

Ask:

Where do I currently lack peace?

Is there a relationship I've avoided?  
Is there bitterness I'm holding onto?  
Is there fear making me defensive or controlling?

Name it honestly.

#### **Step 3: Take One Step Toward Peace**

Choose one practical action:

- Apologize
- Forgive
- Start a conversation
- Pray for someone difficult
- Release resentment
- Stop rehearsing bitterness
- Encourage instead of criticize

Peace is not passive.  
Peacemaking requires movement.

#### **Step 4: Let the Holy Spirit Reassure You**

Once each day, pause and pray:  
"Holy Spirit, remind me that God is for me."

Allow God's love to settle your heart before reacting to others.

#### **Goal of the Week**

Not simply to avoid conflict,  
but to become the kind of person who brings peace because you already have peace with God.