

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)