

Romans 5:1-5 (NIV)

- 1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.
- 3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;
- 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.
- 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

45-05-01-Divine Glory Through Divine Love

faith, justification, peace, glory, hope, love

Rom 5:1-5

After faith restores lost peace with God, love restores His lost glory.

INTRODUCTION: (text as Scripture reading)

–[**Christine Denté**, from *Out of the Grey*, wrote this chorus for a song of hers: “When love comes to life the lost find their way / When love comes to life the blind can see the light of day / My mind, my heart, my spirit all testify / Everything changes when love comes to life”] Her words introduce another reason why the Love Chapter, **1 Cor 13**, is so important to our lives. Love must “come to life,” if we are to manifest the childlike ways that reflect maturity in Christ. –From a *human* viewpoint, salvation is concerned with being *pardoned for our sins* and *getting right with God*. But these lay the groundwork for His deeper work of *restoring* in our lives the glory of His “likeness.” That glorious likeness is His love: **HOM.idea**. First, let’s be sure of...

I. The Faith We Stand In– v.1-2a, *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.*

A. The Bible shows faith to be the basis of our being “justified” [counted righteous in God’s eyes]– **Rom 1:17**, For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” It’s “from first to last,” because...

1. Legal systems, even OT Law, can never justify sinners– **Gal 3:11**, Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, “**The righteous will live by faith.**” (That phrase is repeatedly quoted in the Bible.)
2. It was well-known in Israel’s past history [quoted directly from the Greek LXX of **Hab 2:4** by the author of **Heb 10:38**, “But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.”]
3. Faith is God’s criteria for calling someone righteous. (It’s how He evaluated Abraham 600 years before the Law of Moses– **Gen 15:6**, Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

B. Faith itself can justify no one! What *God counts as righteousness* is faith’s trust in the instruction and promises God gives to us.

1. When Jesus was asked what works God required, He answered in **John 6:29**, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”
2. Faith in God’s redeeming love given in Christ is the only way to regain “the peace of God” we lost through sin’s alienating power.

TRANS: When we realize **that** good deeds don't impress God... **that** *faith* in Christ alone renders us *righteous* in His sight... **that** He's doing *this freely, at His own expense!* **Then** we can know our status: "we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand." It's a *faith* venture, paid for by *grace*, but the process has only begun. **After faith restores lost peace with God, love restores His lost glory.** Now, let's look at...

II. The Glory We Hope For— v.2b-4, *And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.*

- A. Jesus came to restore everything we lost through sin. (Sin not only ruptured our relationship with God, but it stripped us of His glory—**Rom 3:23-24**, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.)
1. *Sin made us lose* "peace with God," but *faith restored that peace* "freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."
 2. But what about "the glory of God," the *quality He gave us to reflect* His "likeness"? Do we get that back, too? (Yes, we do! He wants to restore that as well— 2 Thess 2:14, He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.)
- B. We *anticipate this with joy*: "we rejoice in **the hope** of the glory of God." (With justification, it's a *done deal*, a part of new birth, a present fact; but sharing in His divine glory is a growth process...)
1. Growth isn't easy [When just a boy, I woke up screaming with my first charley horse. My mom came in and called it part of "growing pains." I later learned charley horses were mild compared to life's other "growing pains."]
 2. It's why v.3 says "we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." (*Hardships can toughen us up into persistent characters.*)

TRANS: OR, if we *fail* to move forward in *faith's access to grace in Christ*, we can remain **childish** characters. Childhood wounds inflicted, past hardships suffered, old injustices remembered, absent or neglected affection and nurture—these can cultivate present-day childish habits of immature behavior in the Christian life. God's glory, the *glory of His likeness*, must be restored in us. That *glory is His love*, and *His love* is our *hope*. **After faith restores lost peace with God, love restores His lost glory.** Before diving in to explore **1 Cor 13**, we must understand...

III. The Love That Restores Us— v.5, *And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (By doing this, God gave us His very nature.)*

- A. We learn from **1 John 4:8** that "God is love." (Because the Triune Godhead is eternal, *divine love* has eternally been "the glory of God.")
1. God created us to embody His image and to reflect His likeness—in other words, to **manifest His glorious love in this world.**
 2. The Trinity is supremely relational, making loving behavior the holy prescription for all *human relationships with God* and *with one another*. (This is stipulated in the OT, as expounded in **Mat 22:37-40**, Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.")
 3. If this has long been God's holy standard, why does Jesus say in **John 13:34**, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (What the OT Law couldn't bring about, Jesus sets as *the new norm*, based on the awesome NT fact that "God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.")
- B. To *understand and apply* the Love Chapter, **1 Cor 13**, to our lives, we **must realize what we now have** as *NT believers in Christ*:
1. In **2 Peter 1:4** we read of God's promise for us to "participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."
 2. Love's "divine nature" indwells us in the person of Jesus Christ "by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." (We are not condemned to act out "the corruption in the world caused by" the *immature "evil desires"* of jealousy, attention-seeking self-exaltation, hot temper, hateful rambling, bitter unforgiveness—or whatever else *controls our behavior from the woundedness* of our "inner child of the past.")
 3. Our *healing and wholeness* is in "the glory of God" restored to us by Jesus Christ, when He "poured out his love into our hearts."

CONCLUSION:

—*God's glorious love predates creation*. But, **in His love**, God wanted to share *that love with creation... through humanity*. God's love is right now ours in *Jesus Christ*. But the childishness of spiritual immaturity must go for the childlikeness of love to grow. [When love comes to life the lost find their way / When love comes to life the blind can see the light of day / My mind, my heart, my spirit all testify / Everything changes when love comes to life."]