

Connect

Have you ever had a relationship that started out really rocky where you almost felt like enemies, but later you became close friends? What caused the relationship to change?

Verses - Romans 5:6-11 (CSB)

Read aloud:

6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For rarely will someone die for a just person—though for a good person

perhaps someone might even dare to die. 8 But God proves his own love for us

in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 How much more then,

since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him

from wrath. 10 For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God

through the death of his Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will

we be saved by his life. 11 And not only that, but we also boast in God through

our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received this reconciliation.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. According to vv.6-8, how does Paul describe our spiritual condition before Christ died for us? How does God prove His love compared to how human beings normally act?

2. In v.9, since we have now been justified by the blood of Christ, what exactly are we saved from?

3. Looking at v.10, what was our relationship with God before we were reconciled? If the death of Jesus reconciled us when we were enemies, what does His life do for us now?

4. Based on v.11, what is the final result of receiving this reconciliation? Instead of boasting about ourselves, who do we boast in and why?

Share

Discuss 1:
Pastor Takeshi mentioned stories of incredible human love, like a husband giving his life to rescue innocent passengers or Mother Teresa serving those with leprosy. These people exhibited the highest of human love for the innocent, but how did he contrast this with the love of Jesus? In your own life, why is it harder to show love to those who have wronged you compared to those who are innocent or good?

Discuss 2:
Using the illustration of grafting a branch onto a tree, Pastor Takeshi explained that believing in Jesus and being reconciled to God is the difficult part. Once grafted in, the sap flows naturally to give the branch life and strength, which is the easy part. When you feel frustrated about still struggling with sin, how does this illustration give you hope that God is actively sharing His life and character with you?

Minister to one another through PRAYER sharing *specific* prayer requests.