

Sunday June 14, 2026
Monthly Theme: Grace That Changes Everything
2026 Romans 5:1–8: Peace with God Through Christ

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Many people long for peace. Peace in their families. Peace in their relationships. Peace in their workplaces. Peace within their own hearts.

Yet peace is often misunderstood. We assume peace means the absence of problems. We tell ourselves, "If this conflict ends, if this decision is made, if this burden is lifted, then I will finally have peace."

But life teaches us otherwise.

The reality is that human life is never free from challenges. One season ends and another begins. One concern is resolved and a new responsibility emerges. We live in a world marked by uncertainty, change, and limitations.

If peace depends on circumstances, then peace will always remain beyond our reach.

That is why Paul points us toward a deeper peace—a peace that is not found in perfect circumstances but in a restored relationship with God through Jesus Christ. To understand the power of these words, we need to remember why Paul wrote this letter.

The Christians in Rome lived in the capital of the Roman Empire. They were a minority community trying to live faithfully in a culture shaped by power, status, competition, and division. Jewish and Gentile Christians were learning how to live together as one church despite different histories and experiences.

Paul writes to remind them that their security does not come from Rome's power, their personal achievements, or their ability to control the future. Their security comes from what God has done for them through Jesus Christ.

Throughout this month we have been reflecting on the theme **Grace That Changes Everything**. Last week, Paul taught us that faith trusts God's promises. Today he shows us what that faith receives: **peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**.

In this passage Paul teaches us three truths about peace that can change everything.

1. Christ Gives Us Peace with God

Paul begins: *"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Romans 5:1).

Notice Paul's confidence. He does not say we hope to have peace someday. He says we **have peace** with God. What does this mean?

It means that through Jesus Christ, the separation caused by sin has been removed. The relationship that was broken has been restored. The distance between God and humanity has been bridged by Christ's death and resurrection.

Because of Christ: We no longer stand condemned. We no longer stand as strangers. We no longer stand as enemies. **Instead:** We stand forgiven. We stand accepted. We stand welcomed into God's presence.

This peace is not based on our performance. It does not depend on whether we had a good week or a bad week. It does not disappear when our faith feels weak. It rests entirely on what Christ has already accomplished.

In everyday life, peace with God means that we no longer have to carry the burden of proving ourselves before God. We do not wake up wondering whether God loves us enough. We do not spend our lives trying to earn His acceptance.

When anxiety rises, when guilt returns, when fear begins to whisper, we can remind ourselves:

"The war is over. Christ has reconciled me to God." And because we have peace with God, we can face life's realities differently. That leads us to Paul's second truth.

2. Peace Does Not Eliminate Struggles

Immediately after speaking about peace, Paul begins speaking about suffering. *"We boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope"* (Romans 5:3–4).

Paul is remarkably realistic. Following Christ does not remove us from the human condition. Faith does not exempt us from disappointment, uncertainty, setbacks, or seasons of waiting. The Christian life is not an escape from reality. It is a new way of living within reality.

That is why **Paul does not say**, "Because you have peace with God, you will never suffer." **Instead**, he says that because you have peace with God, suffering no longer has the final word.

God uses even difficult seasons for His purposes.

Paul invites us to see how God works through our struggles.

Suffering teaches us endurance. We discover that we can keep moving forward—not because we are strong, but because God is faithful. What once seemed impossible becomes possible because God sustains us one day at a time.

Endurance shapes our character. As we continue walking with God through difficult seasons, He forms patience, wisdom, humility, and trust within us. We become less dependent on ourselves and more dependent on His grace.

Character gives birth to hope. We begin to look back and recognize God's fingerprints throughout our lives. We can say with confidence, "God was faithful yesterday. God is faithful today. God will be faithful tomorrow."

That is why Christian hope is not wishful thinking. It is confidence built upon the faithfulness of God. Notice what Paul is teaching: The struggle remains, but it does not defeat us.

The challenge remains, but it does not define us. The pain remains, but it does not separate us from God. Peace with God changes everything.

When personal struggles come, we remember that our identity is rooted in Christ, not in our circumstances. When family tensions arise, peace with God teaches us forgiveness, patience, and reconciliation. When society becomes divided, peace with God calls us to become bridge-builders rather than wall-builders. When spiritual questions arise, peace with God reminds us that faith is not the absence of questions but confidence in the One who holds the answers.

The circumstances may not immediately change. But because we are reconciled to God, we walk through them differently. Faith changes everything because peace changes how we see everything. But what makes this peace so secure? Paul answers that in verse 8.

3. God's Love Was Proven at the Cross

Paul writes: *"But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). This verse stands at the heart of the gospel. Notice what Paul does not say.

He does not say Christ died for us after we became worthy. He does not say Christ died for us after we improved ourselves. He does not say Christ died for us after we earned God's approval. Christ died for us while we were still sinners. God's love came first.

Before we sought Him, He sought us. Before we loved Him, He loved us. Before we were reconciled, He made reconciliation possible. That means God's love is waiting for us even when we fail, stumble, doubt, or wander. This is what makes our peace unshakable.

When you face a situation you cannot handle, look to the cross. When you carry questions you cannot answer, look to the cross. When you stand at a crossroads and do not know which path to choose, look to the cross. When fear tells you that you are alone, look to the cross. When regret reminds you of yesterday, look to the cross.

The cross reminds us that the God who reconciled us has not abandoned us. The One who gave His Son for you will not stop loving you now. Once reconciled through Christ, we continue to live in that reconciliation. That is why peace with God survives every season of life.

Challenge for the Week

This week, identify one burden, one conflict, or one worry that has been stealing your peace. Bring it before Christ every day. Use this simple prayer: **"Lord Jesus, help me rest in Your peace and trust in Your love."**

Then ask yourself: **"Lord, how can I become a peacemaker rather than merely a peace-seeker?"** Because those who have been reconciled to God are called to participate in reconciliation with others.

Maybe that begins in your family. Maybe it begins in your workplace. Maybe it begins in your own heart. Wherever it begins, remember this:

The peace that Christ gives is not temporary. The world did not give it. The world cannot take it away. So, receive it. Live in it. Share it. And watch God transform your trials into testimonies.

Because peace with God truly changes everything. Let not your hearts be troubled. You have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Live in it. Walk in it. Share it.

And may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus..

Glory be to God, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.