

Crossroads Baptist Church
May 6, 2007 10:00
Romans 5:5-9
Romans #27

“The Motivation of God’s Gift...The Love of God” Romans 5: 5-9

We have been discussing the gift of God for the past few Sundays. Oh what a gift and we’ve seen the gift keeps on giving and we are amazed that there is more. Today we want to demonstrate from the Scriptures that the gift God has given to us is from the very love of God.

If someone performs an act of love for you, there are four ways you can determine the depth of their love for you: 1. The costliness of the deed; 2. By how undeserving you are of the act of love; 3. By the greatness of the benefit that comes to us by the act; 4. By how free (no strings attached) the gift really is.

The more you love a person the more you want to give. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

I. The love of God is lavishing expressed by the Holy Spirit.

The love here mentioned is not the love we have for God, but the love God has for us. God’s love for us comes first; then our love for Him.

I John 4: 10 “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

God loves you so much that He proved it by pouring out into your heart His love through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Poured out – ekcheo – lavish outpouring to the point of overflowing – inexhaustible abundance of the supply.

The verb is a perfect tense meaning that it began at some point in the past and the effects, results and benefits continue today.

It is an overflowing river, not a trickle.

Comes by the Holy Spirit. No wonder the command is given “keep on being filled with the Spirit.”

When we are away from God, we start saying stupid stuff like, “I wonder if God still loves me.”

But when we are filled with the Spirit, we know He loves us.

It is the same thing that Jesus spoke about in John 7: 37-39 (Message) “On the final and climatic day of the Feast, Jesus took his stand. He cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Rivers of living water will brim and spill out of the depths of anyone who believes in me this way, just as the Scripture says.”

It is the same thing that happened when the Gentiles were given the gospel: Acts 10:45 “..all circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also.”

No wonder Charles Finney would describe

Charles Finney, 1821[Finney was a lawyer in upstate New York and became the best known evangelist of the 19th Century in the United States. He also became the President of Oberlin College in Ohio], “But as I turned and was about to take a seat by the fire, I received a mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost. Without any expectation of it, without ever having the thought in my mind that there was any such thing for me, without my recollection that I had ever heard the thing mentioned by any person in the world, the Holy Spirit descended upon me in a manner that seemed to go through me, body and soul. I could feel the impression, like a wave of electricity, going through me. Indeed, it seemed to come in waves and waves of liquid love.... I can recollect distinctly that it seemed to fan me, like immense wings; and it seemed to me, as these waves passed over me, that they literally moved my hair like a passing breeze.

“No words can express the wonderful love that was shed abroad in my heart. I wept aloud with joy and love; and I do not know but I should say, I literally bellowed out the unutterable gushings of my heart. These waves came over me, and over me, one after another, until I recollect I cried out, ‘I shall die if these waves continue to pass over me.’ I said, ‘Lord, I cannot bear any more,’ yet I had no fear of death.” [

Thus, the love of God is a personal experience.

II. The love of God is a personal experience.

The verb is passive in that it means it is something that acts upon you.

Ephesians 3:17 “...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,.....”

God wants “you” to know His love, so He personally comes to you through the gift of the Holy Spirit and floods our very being.

Notice Romans 5:5 “has been poured out in our hearts...”
Ephesians 3:17 “..dwell in your hearts....”

That’s the center of a person. His intellect, his emotions, his will.

You experience God through the love of Christ being poured out by His Spirit. When it happens, you know it.

Knowing Christ is not a matter of being brought up in church, being good “little boys and girls,” but have a personal, life-changing experience of God’s love being poured in your heart.

III. The love of God is a community experience.

Romans 5:5 “...who was given to us.”

Ephesians 3:18-19 “may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge....”

It’s the same love that everyone in the community of faith has experienced. I know what you experienced when you were saved because it’s the same thing that I experience – the lavish outpouring of the love of God.

Thus it is that love that changed us and it is that love that draws us to one another.

IV. The love of God was demonstrated while we were bad.

We may be tempted to say that God wants to live in us now because I’m better than I used to be. I don’t do the stuff I once did, so God loves me more now.

NO!!! Paul screams NO!!! God loved us as an unbeliever. He loved us when we were unlovable. Look at the object of His love. He uses four words to describe the objects of God’s love:

1. The powerless – verse 6

Asthenes – without strength. This describes one’s state of limited capacity to do something. Here, a man’s ability to save themselves is weak, strength less, powerless.

Powerless against what? Sin. We couldn’t do anything to combat it, to stop it, to correct it.

We were without strength to save ourselves.

Get the picture here. If you can’t stop what is causing you to die, then how will you ever find enough power to save yourself from what is causing you to die?

2. The ungodly - verse 6

The ungodly are opposed to all that God stands for. They have no reverence, no fear, no respect for God or the things of God.

Hardly would one die for a righteousness man (one who was doing all that the law required) or a good man (kind and gracious man).

3. The sinners – verse 8

The ones who have missed the mark morally. The ones who did not keep the law.

4. The enemies – verse 10

We were hostile enemies wanting to overthrow God’s authority in our life and the world. We were siding with the enemies of God.

World War II veterans recount G.I.s who fell on a grenade to save their buddies, but I know of no account in which a G.I. fell on a grenade to save a Nazi.

But Jesus did.

What about Liviu Libreanu? 76 year old engineering and math lecturer at Virginia Tech who was a Holocaust survivor. But on Monday, April 16 while teaching a solid mechanics class and was approached by a mass killer, he personally blocked the door while his students (some say 21 of them) was able to jump out of the window to their safety and life. He was killed.

What a hero!! But at least he had some relation with those students and he was 76 giving life to 18, 19, 20 year olds.

Yet Jesus is greater. Yet this man is not what Jesus is. The professor did not say to Cho, I will die for you and let you live.

V. The Love of God is expressed through His death.

Verse 8 – Christ died for us.

He died in our place, for the benefit of us. Substitutionary death of Christ.

If you reject the greatest expression of love – then you are guilty of greatest sin.

Verse 8 – God continually demonstrates (present tense) His love toward us. Jesus' arms are still open and inviting.