

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

"BUT GOD" SERIES

These questions are for the **October 29, 2017** sermon, "But God Shows His Love." Please read the sermon passage (Romans 5:5-11) together out loud.

SERMON OUTLINE

THOSE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH ALONE . . .

1. Trust God's love, which has been put on display in the person and work of Jesus Christ (6-8)
 - a. God's love is a fact. Christ died (and rose again) for the ungodly.
 - b. God's love is far superior to even the greatest human love.
 - i. He proves his love while we were weak (offering nothing)
 - ii. He proves his love while we were ungodly (though we deserve wrath, Rom 1:18)
 - iii. He proves his love while we were sinners (we missed the mark)
 - iv. He proves it while we were still his enemies
 - c. The best human love might offer itself for a really good person.
 - d. This is a look back in history to what God has already done, through Jesus.
2. Experience God's love personally in our everyday lives (5)
 - a. The Holy Spirit ministers God's love in the hearts of those justified by faith alone.
 - b. This love is "already": "has been poured," which means we experience this love daily.
 - c. This love is "abundant" because it is poured (not placed or, "dripped.")
 - d. This love is experienced most fully in community because it is for "us" and "our."
3. Rejoice in God's love increasingly, because everything gets better from here (9-11)
 - a. The legal declaration of "justification" brings the relational harmony of "reconciliation."
 - b. JUSTIFICATION removes the offense forever.
 - c. RECONCILIATION is the relational result: permanently restored friendship with God.
 - d. This love is in some ways not fully realized. We "shall be" saved at his coming.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The Reformation was all about re-focusing on justification by faith alone. Justification is a legal declaration of righteousness, made by God, for those who believe and put their trust in him (Heb. 11:6) and his Word. What is the difference between "belief" and "faith"?
2. Based on #1, above: How much time do you spend thinking about God's love for you, which has been displayed in the sacrifice of Jesus? Why do you think this passage emphasizes that this is the "love of God" (and not "the love of Jesus")? How does dwelling on the PAST EXPRESSION of God's love move you emotionally?
3. Based on #2, above: God's love is to be experienced now ("has been poured out") and to be experienced in abundance ("poured out"). It is ministered constantly by the Holy Spirit. Describe your experience with the love of God. How does experiencing the CURRENT REALITY of God's love encourage you? How does the community of believers help you sense God's love?
4. Based on #3, above: God has done the hardest things already (in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ). The "easier things" will definitely be done (like saving you at his Second Coming). Do you look forward to the future with an immovable hope? Why, or why not?