Discussion Questions: Focus
Who? - Responding to God's love – Romans 5:1-11

Drawn from the September 8, 2024 sermon by Dr. Jeff Chandler

Opener: If you were to measure your identity in terms of God's love, what would be something you are especially grateful for that he has done in your life?

The SCC Missions statement reads: *Responding to God's love by inviting people to join us as we become more like Jesus.*

Today's study will help us in understanding the attributes of God's love that we are seeking to emulate. Ask someone to read Romans 5:1-11

I. God's Love – What does it look like?

A. God's Love Embraces:

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Romans 5:6

1. What does the statement "at just the right time" convey to you about how God uses our circumstances to awaken us spiritually?

2. The kind of people described in this verse can be described as weak, helpless, ungodly, sinners, and even enemies of God. Have you ever seen yourself this way? If so, how did you feel God's "embrace" and receive his mercy in your life?

B. God's Love Restores:

For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Romans 5:10

3. Can you identify something in your life that has been restored by trusting in Jesus?

4. The idea of restoration also conveys a change of ownership. Jesus bought us from sin's bondage and restores us to God as his own possession. What does this mean to you?

These verses describe what happens when someone is restored by God

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Psalm 51:10

5. Talk about how God has renewed you and made something new out of your life.

C. God's Love Satisfies:

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5:5

God causes all things to work together for good to those who love him, to those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

6. It seems many people are disappointed because they hope in things that don't ultimately satisfy. According to these verses, how can we avoid this predicament?

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 2 Corinthians 4:17

…weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. Psalm 30:5

7. How has God been teaching you recently about patience and reliance on him?

Group Prayer Time:

Praise God for his reconciling work through Christ that brought you to him at the right time when you were hostile and helpless. Pray that the people in the group would understand their need for a Savior and trust fully in Christ because of the price he paid for them.

For personal refection in the group or on your own:

A. What was one of your most joyful moments in the past few months? Take a moment to thank God for his presence and grace in that time.

B. How have these verses helped you more fully appreciate the benefits that are yours because of God's love? What are some ways you can celebrate these benefits?

Next week, September 15, pastor Jeff will cover "What? - Inviting others to join us" and there will be discussion questions available in "Downloads" on the SCC website.