



THE
SAYINGS

vGroup Study

VINTAGE  PRESS

The Sayings: vGroup Study

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LOVE

Over the last few weeks, Vintage Church has kicked off a brand new series—The Sayings—focused on the 7 sayings of Jesus from the cross. As Jesus hung on the cross and paid the penalty for our sins, he also left us with his final, dying words. These words provide us with some incredible lessons for life and pursuing God. During this series, we've also entered into the season of Lent—a season of spiritual preparation leading to Easter! As we enter this season of preparation, what better way to prepare than to reflect on the cross and what Jesus accomplished on that cross.

Over the next weeks, we're going to look at key themes related to Jesus and the cross. At the core of the cross and Jesus' sacrifice is love. One passage that speaks about God's love and the cross is Romans 5:1–11. Before we turn to that passage, let's think about love.

- How does our culture define love?
- Why do you think our culture makes such a big deal of love, regardless of whether it's misguided at times?
- One of the truths the Bible teaches is that God is love, and what we're going to see is how the cross demonstrates that love. How does knowing that God, the creator, sustainer, and redeemer of creation, is love affect how you see and understand God?

In the book of Romans, Paul is making an argument for our need for salvation and God's plan for that salvation. In Romans 1, Paul has said we're all in need of forgiveness and salvation. Romans 2 argues for God's righteousness and judgment in face of sin. Romans 3 and 4 teaches that righteousness comes by faith. And then we come to Romans 5. First, let's read Romans 5:1–5.

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 5:1–5

- Why can we have peace with God? (Hint: Look at the beginning of verse 1).
- What does Paul mean when he says “through our Lord Jesus Christ?” (Hint: What has Jesus done?).
- According to Paul, why can we have hope? (Hint: In verse 5, what does Paul say God did?).
- It’s one thing to know about God’s love; it’s another thing to have that love “poured into our hearts.” What’s the significance of having God’s love poured into our hearts? (Hint: God has made his love real and personal).

Paul continues his argument in verses 6–11, focusing on the love of God demonstrated through the sacrifice and death of Jesus. Let’s turn to and read Romans 5:6–11.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 5:6–11

- Who did Jesus die for?
- When did God demonstrate his love for us—before or after we were reconciled to him? (Hint: Look at verse 8).

- God loved us while we were still sinners and separated from him. Based on this truth, how would you describe God's love?
- According to Romans 5:9–11, what did Jesus' death accomplish for us? Why are each of these elements important?

Jesus' death upon the cross for our sins ultimately demonstrated God's love for us. Despite God's holiness and our sin, God found a way for us to both see and experience his love. Without Jesus and his cross, humanity would never have fully known how much God loves us. But now, we know!

- How might God's love change the way we see the cross and Jesus' death?
- If God loved you while you were in your sin, he loves others who are still in need of forgiveness. How should God's love propel us to have gospel conversations with other people?

Our understanding of God's love should ultimately lead us to worship God. Close your time praying as a group, taking turns to thank God for his love.