



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

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### Love of God!

**Scripture:** Romans 5:1-11

**The love of God is agape**—unconditional and self-sacrificing kind of love. Because of His love we have been justified by faith, and we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, which we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. We glory in tribulations knowing it works patience, experience, and hope, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost.

**We are justified by God's grace and pardoned of our sin as a free and unconditional gift, through redemption that is in Christ Jesus.** It also serves as a useful, concise proof that our salvation is not, in any sense, dependent on good deeds, rituals, sacraments, or other behaviors. Peace with God means that we have been reconciled with him. There is no more hostility between us, no sin blocking our relationship with him. Peace with God is possible only because Jesus paid the price for our sins through the death on the cross.

Faith also brings us accessibility to God's grace. **Grace is the free unmerited love and favor of God (undeserved).** When punishment should be administered, we are blessed instead. Grace should never be used as a license to sin. This hope, coupled with grace, enables us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. **We are empowered to live right in this present world.** Faith led us into God's grace. God's grace redeemed us and gave us great hope.

We rejoice in suffering not because we like pain or deny its tragedy, but because we know God is using life's difficulties and Satan's attacks to build our character. Peter exhorted us, "*Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy*" (1 Peter 4:12-13). The problems that we run into will develop our patience—which in turn will strengthen our character, deepen our trust in God, and give us greater confidence about the future.

*"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope"* (Romans 15:4). **And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.** Paul tells us, "*According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death*" (Philippians 1:20).

Moreover, *"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). And, ***"Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"*** (Romans 8:39).

Christ loved us so, that he gave himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor. Hardly for a righteous man will one die, perhaps maybe someone would even dare die for one. First John 4:10 tells us, "*Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*" Since we have been justified by his blood, we shall be saved from his wrath. The wrath of God is against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of mankind that does not obey the truth. However, we that once had our conversation in times past in the lust of the flesh, and fulfilling the desires of the flesh and mind by nature were the children of wrath, even as others.

But since we could not atone for our sins, we rejoice in the fact that Jesus atoned for us. Hebrews 9:13-14 tells us, "*For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"* All this was done looking ahead to the sacrifice of Calvary where the blood of Jesus was shed to atone for our sins. **That is the love of God!**