

October 25, 2020

Intro: In his book titled “The 5 Love Languages” Gary Chapman identifies 5 ways we express/receive love

*Words of Affirmation; Acts of Service; Giving/Receiving of Gifts; Quality Time; Physical Touch*  
He develops each one of those concepts in the book, and basically says, Have to KNOW your partner, probably NOT like you. If they value Words of Affirmation...you Giving...Ships passing in night! What we have to do in order to communicate love...speak their language...give them what they NEED

That is what Paul tells us God has done for us in Rom 5:8. The desire of His heart is to demonstrate His love for us: Lit = to put His love on display...to communicate His love in a way we can understand

Last week we started New Series: Road To Hope: We have a problem...bible identifies it as a SIN Problem!

Rom 3:23     *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

This week what we are looking at is what God has done to SOLVE our Problem!

Rom 5:8     *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

If you look carefully at this verse there are some spiritual truths I want to help you see.

4 Truths About God’s Love We Have To Embrace In Order To Take Road To Hope

### 1. God’s Proactive Love.

Vs 8: *“But God”*

When we finished last week we were in a bad place. We were dealing with the consequences of our sin. Bible teaches us that the wages of sin is death: 3 Different kinds of Death: Temporal, Spiritual and Eternal

- Temporal:     Something dies when we sin: Friendship; Relationship, Marriage, Trust
- Spiritual:     Means we are separated from the God that created us :Told be holy...but we can’t!
- Eternal:       Means that if I die without addressing my sin problem separated from Him forever!

Illus: Bible uses a number of different illustrations of that separation from God.

Eph 2:12     *“without hope and without God in the world.”*

Eph 4:18     *“darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God”*

- Lost:           (Fishing, stream running wrong direction!)
- Darkness:      (Being in cave...never experienced anything like that!)

Those are the images the bible uses to describe life without Christ, life with our sin unforgiven.

Then Paul...as he writes his letter to the Romans, says something AMAZING!

BUT GOD!

Yes we were lost, yes we were in darkness, yes we were without God and without hope... BUT GOD!

God chose to be PROACTIVE! God Chose to move. God chose to Act, God chose to send His son

BUT GOD!

That is the message I want you to hold on to today...not your sin; problem, struggle, doubt: BUT GOD!

BUT GOD...WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS....GOD MOVED ON OUR BEHALF

Illus: When I was a brand new follower of Jesus, there was a nationwide publicity campaign. *“I Found It”* Billboards, TV commercials, Celebrities...Plastered everywhere...Buttons People wearing: *“I Found It”* Great campaign...and God used it...but terrible theology! Bible doesn’t say we found Him...He found us!

*“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him...” John 6:44*

BUT GOD: When someone has spiritual questions...God is drawing them! At Work!

### 2. God’s Public Love For Us.

*“God Demonstrates His Love”*

We use the word love in so many different ways, and for so many different things, often loses its impact

*~I love ice cream   ~I love my car   ~I love my new shoes   ~I love you 15 you   75yo*

When Paul says to us that God demonstrates His love for us...He wants to be sure we “get” it:

Uses an interesting word: *“Demonstrates”*: Lit = *to put something on PUBLIC display*

When Paul says God loves us...It’s not a cheap easy throw away. And we know that by demonstration

**When God wanted a lost world to know of His LOVE us He found a way of writing it LARGE/PUBLIC  
He sent His only Son into the world to be publicly humiliated, scourged, stripped, beaten, hung naked on  
a cross for all the world to see, so that He could point at Him and say SEE, THAT'S how much I love you**

And when Jesus wanted us to know the extent of HIS love for us...Heb 12:2 says "*for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*" Don't ever be confused: It wasn't nails that kept Him on that cross! It was His love for YOU! As He told Peter, *Put away the sword: Don't you know I can call 10 thousand angels!* LOVE HELD HIM God's love was demonstrated publicly...for all of eternity to see and grasp His great love

### **3. God's Personal Love For Us.**

## *“His Own Love”*

None of the newer bibles do it that I am aware of, but back in the day...when bible translators supplied a word to help with understanding and reading...they would put it in italics...So you know..not in original. Here is the interesting part of that in Rom 5:8. God demonstrates His OWN love...not italics! Yes it is an awkward way of expressing it...but Paul wants us to understand...God's love PERSONAL!

**Paul is highlighting for us that God's love is not some casual...oh I love you guys, kinda thing. The love he is talking about flows from the heart of our heavenly Father...**

**Unconditional, Unrelenting Unrestrained...Unmatched in all of eternity.**

**Illus: When God wanted us to understand His love for mankind He did some amazing things**

**~He demonstrated it publicly...Allowed His Son to be hung from a cross**

~He explained it clearly: Prodigal Son: Doesn't matter who you are, what you do, when you live You see, You ARE the Son, Or the Father, Or the Older Brother...Or Servant Throwing Party!

**Now matter who you are...you GET IT!**

**When you read the story of the Prodigal Son you get direct insight into the heart of God.**

**He is helping us see who He is, and How He feels about those that are far from Him!**

**God doesn't just "Love the World" He loves each and every single one of His children.**

**Illus: Parents: Have you ever "Lost a Child" in the grocery? OR amusement park, Or Mall**

**That desperate feeling of “I have to do something” I have to find them...that’s the heart of God  
And can I tell you...His heart hasn’t changed in this Pandemic...if anything...it is amplified!**

#### 4. God's Love Is Pricey.

## **“Christ Died” for the Ungodly**

**God sent His Son, knowing that many would reject them. God sent His Son...no guarantees.**

**God sent His Son, knowing that the cross lay before Him. Yet it did not deter Him.**

**Knowing all that was in store; the ridicule, the beating, the rejection, the shame...K**

**Who will lay down their innocent life for those that don't know or care about the price.**

**Who will give their one and only Son...so that an Evil world can be redeemed. Forgiveness**

Who will give them one and only Son....so that an EVIL world can be redeemed, Forgiveness and Grace

**Thus.** Parents. Stop and think about it. Would you? Would you give your child to be rejected, beaten... “For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” 1 Peter 1:18-19 God’s love was so pricey...Cost Him His Son

**CONCL** In this series: “The Road To Hope” I have 2 Goals

1. Encourage you: If you haven't yet come to a place in your life where you have accepted Christ, In a moment I'm going to pray...If you are ready...do that with me. Sense a desire: It's God! *Proactively Looking for you; Publicly Shown you; Personally Cares; Paid Great Price*
  2. Equip you: We all have conversations...this give you the basics! (Next 5 Weeks)  
Who in YOUR life needs to hear about God's love?  
Who do YOU need to pursue...the way God pursued you?

**Who do you need to pray for, share with, reach out to, tell about God's love?  
As I pray with those that need to open their heart to God**

**Challenge you...pray for those in your life that need to know Him**

**Ask God to open the door.**

**Here is what you are looking for...**

**Where is God...Doesn't He care? Doesn't He know...I thought He loved us!!!**

**Start there...lead them to the Cross.**

#### **Prayer of Salvation**

**Father I know I am a sinner. Please forgive me for my sins.**

**I believe that your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ died to pay the price for my sins.**

**I trust Him now as my personal Savior and Lord.**

**I ask Him to come into my life and commit to follow Him all the days of my life as He gives me strength.**

**Thank you for hearing my prayer...and answering it.**

**Amen**