

Romans: The Hope of Righteousness part 2 | God Loves Us In Our Weakness | Romans 5:6-11

1. **THINK:** Many people say that God loves them. They use this truth, very often, to condone their behavior and claim that God's love for them includes loving them 'just the way they are'. What are they missing in this? Why must God's love for us be conditioned with the idea that we are needy and desperate and weak without it? Why does our sin, and only our sin, give the condition where God's love is most meaningful? **DO:** Do you really see yourself as weak, needy and desperate? Survey your life and what points to the idea in your life that you are weak and needy and in need of God's love?
2. **THINK:** What is the cost of God's love? What is its pinnacle? Why, so often, do we hear of others claiming the love of God, but not ever making much of how God's love was truly been made manifest? **DO:** How would you respond to someone living a life that claimed God's love, but living in behavior that affronted it? How would you answer their claims that God loves them?
3. **THINK:** What is the difference between these two statements: "God loves me just the way I am," and "God loves me in spite of who I haven't been"? Is there a difference? Where does the focus lie on each statement? Where does each statement lead us to? What does each statement demand from us? **DO:** Formulate a response for each of these statements. How would you weave your own testimony and the truth of God's Word to lead to a Gospel conversation?
4. **THINK:** Comment further on this statement from the sermon: "Ungodliness is more than just the sins that human beings commit. Ungodliness is a state of mind." What is the difference between ungodliness and unrighteousness?
5. **THINK:** Why is the death of Jesus so scandalous? Why does it not fit in the norm of understanding, in the norm of what sacrifice should be spent for? **DO:** How do you apply this truth and the depth of it to your life each day? How does this scandalous death/sacrifice mean something to you on a daily basis? What do you DO in light of this truth?
6. **THINK:** Why does claiming God's love for one's self mean nothing unless one claims the death of Jesus for one's self? His death was not meant to just cleanse us, but his death removed the obstacle for God's love to be applied to us? Does God's love count for someone if the death of Christ has not been applied to them? **DO:** Discuss the idea that God's love is conditional; that it is conditional only for those who have responded to the death of Christ for them and placed their faith in Him? Is this true?