

Romans 5:6-11 – The ludicrous love of God

1. What is love?

So what is love? If you had to finish the sentence “Love is ...” What would you say?

5 love languages – gift giving, acts of service, words of affirmation, touch, ...

God’s love is a different order of magnitude compared to the 5 languages of love,
Or any definition of love that we could come up with.

But to understand God’s love, we need to start by understanding our status before God.

2. Who we were – God’s enemies

And the shocking reality is that in God’s eyes. ***We were his enemies.*** v. 10. << read v. 10>>

And if that’s not enough Paul piles on the descriptions of our hostility to God.

In v. 6 - We were weak, and ungodly.

In v. 8 - We were sinners.

Now, this might be completely offensive to you.

You might think – now, hang on – How can you say that we’re God’s enemy?

I mean, we’re here at church, at Easter.

We’re morally upright.

We’re do the best to raise our kids to be “good kids”.

So how can God say that we’re his enemies?

The Bottom line is this: We were all God’s enemies because of our rebellion against him.

3. God’s ludicrous love - Christ died for us

And yet, God’s ludicrous love is this.

While we were still enemies of God, Christ died for us. From v.6 << read vv. 6-8 >>

Paul provides great clarity to the ludicrous love of God,

Paul provides clarity by posing the question – who would you die for?

You see,

Would you die for a morally upright person? Would you die for a Fred Niles?

Maybe, but hardly likely.

Would you die for a genuinely good person,

For a ‘mate’? Perhaps even, someone you love? Maybe or Quite possibly.

Well, in stark contrast,

God sends Jesus to die,

Not just for the morally upright person.

Not just for the good person.

No. God sent Jesus to die for his enemies.

God sent his Son to die for the very people who despised him.

People like you and I.

This is completely ludicrous love – while we were still enemies Christ died for us.

Now, all too often, our understanding of the cross is that

On the one hand, Jesus is the one who loves us, because he died for us.
Then, on the other hand, God is the one who is angry with us, because of our sin.
Jesus = love. God = angry. Jesus = happy. God = mad.

This thinking is sadly deficient.

You see, on the cross, the love of God meets the wrath of God.

On the cross, the Father and the Son, don't turn away from each other,
But rather, on the cross, the Father and the Son turn to face each other,
in an act of both judgment and love
On the cross, the Father and the Son demonstrate the greatest act of love for us.

This is absolutely ludicrous love. ***While we were still enemies of God, Christ died for us.***

Now, God's ludicrous love has massive ramifications for us.

Sure, it is the reason why we're gathered together this very day,
However, on a much deeper level, God's ludicrous love impacts upon our very being.

4. Who we are now – justified

You see, ***because of God's ludicrous love we are now justified.*** <<repeat>>

Come with me to verse 9. << read vv. 9-10>>

Now, justify sounds like a very technical word,
But the principle is very simple.
If justice has been done, then the party has been justified.
When the speeding ticket has been issued,
When you pay the ticket, justice has been done, and you have been justified.

So, when it comes to God, we have been justified,
Because justice has been done. How?
By Christ dying for us.

You might be thinking:
Well, I've heard all this before.
There's nothing new here.
Jesus died for me, blah, blah blah.

If this is you. Then I want to draw your attention to one word.
The word is a very small word that we normally skim over.
And the word is "now".

Did you notice it?

v. 9 – “Now that we have been justified” <<repeat>>

That is, at this very moment in time if you trust in Jesus, then you are right with God.
You can be guaranteed, 100%, absolutely rock solid. You are right with God **now**.

5. What we will be – saved (v. 10c)

The ludicrous love of God not only brings justification now,
but it also has a vital implication for our future.

And the implication is this.
In the future, **We will be saved**.

Looking at v. 10, again, and notice the future implication. << Ppt - slide>>

That is, our future destiny is absolutely guaranteed, now.
Because we are justified now, we will be saved then.
Because we are reconciled now, we will be delivered from God’s wrath then.

Now, many, many Christians struggle with assurance of their own salvation.
Maybe you are someone who is wracked by doubt.
Maybe you are someone who lacks certainty about your final destination.

Well, take great comfort in these words,
Know that if you trust in Jesus now, you will be saved then,
Know that if you are justified now, you will be delivered then,
Know that if you are reconciled now, your future with God is guaranteed.

We are saved in the future, because we are justified now.
And we are justified now, because of God’s ludicrous love for us.

6. The Easter Madness

I want to finish by turning our attention to the craziness of the Easter Long Weekend.
What do you make of the Easter madness?
Are we running around like headless chooks, for 4 days.
Travelling here, there and everywhere.
Are we distracted by the Easter Show, by the social events, by the ‘catching up’ on life...
Will you get to the end and think, what did I do this Easter?

Well, whatever else that happens this Easter,

Remember God's ludicrous love.

Remember that we were enemies with God.

Remember that God proved his ludicrous love through Christ dying for us.

Remember that we are now justified before God.

And Today, remember that we will be saved from God's wrath.

And why? Because of God's ludicrous love – Christ died for us.

Amen.