

Remnant Life Church
February 21, 2021
Amazing Love, How Can It Be?
Pt 2
Romans 5:5-11

What makes God's love so amazing?

- Last week – God loves you, even though you are a sinner (not were but are)
 - He died for us even though we were still in sin
 - What does our sinful nature do?
 - Makes us powerless to change our own natures of sin
 - Makes us ungodly – completely contrary to the perfect nature of God
 - Makes us enemies – not that God hates us but that our relationship with Him was severed by sin
 - *Isa 64:6 - All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind, our sins sweep us away.*

READ – Romans 5:5-11

Look again at verse 7 - *Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.*

Two unusual questions:

1. Who would you die for? (whom?)
 - a. I think that list, for most people, would be pretty short
 - b. For me: my wife, my 2 sons, my grandson, my family, a friend or two
 - c. That list for all of us would not be very long
2. Who would die for you?
 - a. This question, while similar to the first, cannot be answered in the same way, it is completely different
 - b. How do you answer that question?
 - c. How presumptive is it for you to say that someone would love you enough to die for you?
 - d. Those 2 lists may look very different

But I can answer that second question for every one of you...

- Jesus died for you
- And if you or I was the only person on the planet, Jesus still would have come to die
- Why?
 - Because the first thing that makes God's love so amazing is that God loves you even though you are a sinner

The second thing that makes His love so amazing is also part of the answer to the second question:

Jesus died in your place so you wouldn't suffer the punishment for your sin

1. Jesus, as a sinless substitute, satisfied the demand of God
 - a. What demand?
 - b. From the beginning, for the forgiveness of sins, there must be bloodshed
 - i. I have been asked why this is so
 - ii. The honest answer is, I don't know!
 - iii. Perhaps it is seen in **Lev 17:11** - *For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.*
 - iv. The author of Hebrews certainly picks up on that theme
 1. **Heb 9:22** - *...the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*
 - v. To perhaps gain some understanding...consider that sin is going against God and siding with the work of satan
 1. What is the function of God's enemy? Death
 2. And so when you sin, life must be reintroduced (so to speak) for forgiveness to be given
 3. Our sin (death) is covered by the blood (life)
 - c. The sin offering is first mentioned in **Ex 29** as a role of the priests
 - i. Sacrifice a bull each day as a sin offering to make atonement. (**Ex 29:36**)
 - ii. **Lev 5:5-6** - *...when anyone becomes aware that they are guilty in any of these matters, they must confess in what way they have sinned. As a penalty for the sin they have committed, they must bring to the LORD a female lamb or goat from the flock as a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for them for their sin.*
 - d. The other important element for the sin to be forgiven was the condition of the sacrifice
 - i. **Lev 22:21** - *When anyone brings from the herd or flock a fellowship offering to the LORD to fulfill a special vow or as a freewill offering, it must be without defect or blemish to be acceptable.*
 - ii. **1 Peter 1:18-19** - *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 ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*
 - e. Again, **Heb 9:22** ... *without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*
 - f. Jesus took your place so that the penalty of your sin would be satisfied

Thomas Sanders lived in Mississippi and is one of 2,553 people currently sitting on death row in the United States as of Oct 2020

- He abandoned his wife and 4 children in 1987, and they had him legally declared dead in 1994
- But he was not dead
 - After nearly 25 years, He had taken up with a woman and her daughter while living in LV, Nevada

- The woman, was Suellen Roberts, and her 12-year-old daughter Lexis
 - In 2010 Sanders took Roberts and her daughter on a trip to the Grand Canyon where, unprovoked, he shot and killed Suellen and dumped her body near an asphalt pit
 - He then abducted the 12-year-old Lexis to Louisiana, where after an extended time of abuse and assault, he shot her 4 times and slit her throat
 - He was convicted to die by a jury following a trial and sentencing where Sanders did not display the least bit of remorse
 - And he is waiting there today for the sentence to be carried out

 - Having heard all of that, I wonder if there is there anyone here this morning who would be willing to drive to the state penitentiary in Tere Haute, IN, walk into his cell and say, “Thomas Sanders, I love you; and I love you so much that you are going to be released and I am going to die in your place. I am accepting your death penalty.”
 - But that is exactly what Jesus Christ did for you and for me
 - Sin, our sin, is what put Jesus on the cross
 - As if we held the hammer and nails in our hands, but He went willingly
 - Never forget, Jesus did not have His life taken from Him; He gave it willingly for you and for me!
 - He satisfied the demand of God that a spotless, perfect sacrifice of be spilled for the forgiveness of sin
 - But it was not only the demand of God that Jesus took on our behalf...
2. As our sinless substitute, Jesus also took the wrath of God on Himself
- a. *V 9 - Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!*
 - b. What does a substitute do?
 - i. Well, in a basketball game, number 31 comes in to take the place of number 10
 - ii. Number 10 rests or is out of the competition, while number 31 plays in his stead
 - iii. In a school classroom, when the teacher cannot be present, a substitute is brought in so the class may continue
 - iv. When making a movie, and a scene calls for something dangerous to be done, rarely is it the actor it is a stunt-double who substitutes for the actor
 - v. They have someone else take the place of the actor to protect him or her from harm if something goes wrong
 - c. That is what the doctrine of substitutionary atonement is
 - i. Jesus substituted Himself for you
 - ii. He atoned or paid for your sins
 - d. But consider what that meant besides the physical agony of the beatings, flogging, and being nailed to the beams of wood
 - i. The crucifixion of Jesus, according to the Gospel of Mark, began at 9:00 a.m. (**Mk 15:25**)
 - ii. He gave up His spirit at 3:00 p.m. after hanging on the cross for 6 hours

1. Now, we have talked about the significance of numbers in the Bible
2. There is meaning in every number that you see beyond a numerical value
3. 6 is the number of man, as well as the number of sin
4. Jesus suffered for 6 hours on the cross to remove the sin of man
- iii. **Matt 27:45** tells us that from noon until 3:00 p.m. there was total darkness
 1. Why were those hours shrouded in darkness?
 2. Because during that time, Jesus was absorbing the wrath of God for you and for me
 3. He experienced hell for you and for me, in our place
- iv. What is hell?
 1. It is not what those who don't Jesus think it will be
 2. How many times have you heard someone say they want to go hell where all the parties will be
 3. Billy Joel sings in Only the Good Die Young – I'd rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints; sinners are much more fun.
 4. My friends, in hell there is not light, there is no laughter, there are no parties
 - a. There is eternal torment
 - b. Will it be fire? The Bible does not say specifically
 - c. But what is the greatest fear of almost every person?
 - d. To be burned alive
 5. Jesus cried out, "I thirst" in those last hours – the agony of what He was enduring was so great
 6. But it was not just the physical torment it was the spiritual brutality of being separated from God
 7. That is what the definition of hell is – complete separation from God
 - a. From His love, His light, His kindness, His mercy, His care
 - b. That does not mean those things will be present in some other form – they will be completely absent
 8. Can it really be that bad?
 9. When Jesus was hanging on the cross
 - a. He did not cry out, "The pain is too much!"
 - b. He did not cry out, "How can you do this to me when all I did was show love to you?"
 - c. No, he cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- v. Darkness, torment, physical agony, separation from God – Jesus experienced and took all of those on Himself so you would not have to
- vi. All He asks is that you accept Him as your Lord and Savior and then live for Him