

Theme: That's How Much God Loves You!

Text: Romans 5:6-11 (NIV)

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.
⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Of all the things about God that are impossible to fully comprehend what one thing about God would you say is the most incredible, the most “unfathomable”?

Is it His wisdom? It's hard to comprehend a Being who knows literally everything. The Bible describes God's wisdom and ways as “**unfathomable**” in this very same book of Romans.

Is it God's power? It's hard to wrap your mind around the fact that God is “almighty”—all-powerful. He can create simply by saying “**Let there be**” and it appears. His power is limitless. There is nothing that is “**too hard**” (**Jeremiah 32:27**) for Him to accomplish.

Maybe it's His eternal nature? The fact that He always has been and has no beginning, and always will be and has no end. That is “unfathomable,” isn't it?

Or is it His nature as the “Trinity”? We talked about this in our sermon from a few weeks ago: Three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—but really and truly One God. How can you possibly fully comprehend that? You can't!

Those would all be good choices. But let me submit to you that the most “unfathomable”—the most mind-blowing—attribute of God is: His LOVE! In fact, I would go as far as to say, after reading the verses of our sermon text from Romans chapter 5, how could you not say that His LOVE is the most “unfathomable” thing about God?

Think about what Paul is saying about God and His **love** in our text: We might be noble and loving enough to give up our lives for someone we consider to be a “good” person, and I would think that most of us would say we'd be willing to give up our lives for someone that we love dearly—our spouse, our children, a cherished friend or other close family members who are very dear to us.

But how many of us would give up our lives for people who hate us? People who are our “**enemies**”? People who irritate you. People who disgust you. People who just “have it in” for you for no apparent reason. People who have hurt you. People who have said and done terrible things to you or your family. Would you be willing to die for them?

Let's even go a step further—because that's what God did: Would you give up the life of your only child for them?

Obviously, NO! Of course not! We'd never think of giving up our child, or someone we love dearly, for ANYONE, much less for someone who is our enemy! That's simply unthinkable and so ridiculous it isn't even worth discussing—it's actually offensive! No one is going to give up their life or the life of their only child for their enemy; for someone who hates us and has mistreated and abused us.

And yet this “unfathomable,” unimaginable love is just the kind of love that God has shown to us in sending His Son Jesus—except to an even greater degree! Paul writes in our text, **“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us... when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son” (Romans 5:6-8, 10).**

Did you catch the words Paul used to describe our natural condition? **“Powerless.”** Not “weak.” Not “sick.” Not “trying real hard.” Not just needing Jesus to come and take care of the little bit that we couldn't accomplish on our own. **“Powerless!”**

He also describes us as **“ungodly”** and **“sinners!”** We were born into this world with our sins covering our souls (cf. Psalm 51:5). We aren't born inherently good; we are born **“ungodly!”** The word in the Greek here in this verse that is translated **“ungodly”** means to be *“godless, or wicked; to live without regard for religious belief or practice.”* That's the spiritual state we were born in. And yet Jesus didn't wait until we were “good enough.” He didn't wait until we had our “act together.” No! What does our text say, **“Christ died for the ungodly” (v. 6)** and **“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (v. 8)!**

Have you ever felt **“ungodly”**? Have you ever felt like a **“sinner”**—I mean a real **“sinner”**? Felt so shocked and appalled by what you've said or done or thought that you are certain there is no way you can be a child of God; there is no way God can possibly love you? Again, what does our text say, **“Christ died for the ungodly” (v. 6)** and **“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (v. 8)!** That means Christ died for you! He died for me! **“Ungodly sinners”** are the very people for whom Christ came to die! **That's how much God loves you!**

Paul even says that by nature **“we were God's enemies” (v. 10)**. God hates sin and because of our sin we were separated from God. Our sins made us His **“enemies.”** And yet once again we read in our text, **“we were reconciled [*literally: made friends*] to him through the death of his Son” (v. 10)**. Jesus' death on the cross took away that wall of sin that separated us from God and turned us from God's **“enemies”** to His friends! **That's how much God loves you!**

What does this “unfathomable” LOVE from God mean for us now in our everyday Christian lives? It means that **“we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”** as the first verse of this chapter says (Romans 5:1). It means we can live without fear of God's wrath and punishment. We can live without fear for our eternal future—wondering what will happen to us when we die: Will we be saved? Will we be condemned? Jesus' death and resurrection put all those questions and fears to rest!

If Christ did this for us—gave up His life for us by the agonizing death of the cross—while we were still *sinners*, what then have we to fear in this life or the next? If Jesus loves us enough to die for us when we were **“ungodly sinners”** should we worry about whether He will provide clothing and food for us today? If Jesus loves us enough to sacrifice His own life for the sake of us, who were born His **“enemies”** because of our sins, should we worry whether He will get us through our financial struggles? Should we worry whether He will get us through our family problems, our marital or relationship difficulties, or the health crisis we might be facing? Of course not!

Paul put it this way a few chapters later in this same letter to the Romans, **“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32)**. Paul says in the last verse of our text that even in the midst of the trials and difficulties we face in our lives we can **“rejoice”** because of God’s great love for us in Christ! **“Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation” (Romans 5:11)**.

What would you do for someone who loves you that much? What would you give; what would you do for someone who is willing to sacrifice Himself—to take on your hell so that you could have His heaven? To take on your sins so that you can have His salvation? What would you do to thank someone who loves you that much? Maybe a better question is “What wouldn’t you do for someone who loves you that much?!”

Do you feel ungodly? Unloved? Unworthy of love because of your sins—past or present? It’s hard not to think that way at times, isn’t it? We know the reality of our sins. We confessed them again this morning. Let’s also remember the reality of God’s LOVE: It is “unfathomable,” unimaginable, unconditional, and unmistakably for YOU! He proved it on the cross! Jesus, with His arms stretched out on the cross declared to you and me and all the world for all time, “I love you THIS much!” **“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (v. 8)**

That’s how much God loves you! Amen.

