

**Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?**

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

**Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?**

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

James 1:1-12

**Message Notes**  
**September 2, 2018**

Vertical Reconciliation  
Romans 5:1-11  
Lindsay Kennedy

## **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS**

1. Read Romans 5:1-11. Paul repeatedly uses a few words and these give us a hint as to his main points. What are these key words?

2. What three benefits result from our being justified (v2-3)?

3. How and why can we rejoice in sufferings? (V3-5)

4. What does Paul see as the proof of God's love? (V6-8)?

5. Read John 3:16. What was the motivator for God's action in sending Christ?

6. Read 1 John 3:16-18. What do these verses tell us about God's love and how we are called to respond?

7. Notice the key words/ideas in the arrangement of Romans 5:1-11

- peace (v1), joy (v2), hope (v2-4)
- Hope (v9-10), joy (v11a), peace (v11b)
- What is the theme of the remaining verses in the middle (V5-8)?

8. Given verses 5-8 are in the center of the passage, what does it tell us about their importance in Paul's mind?

9. What negative words does Paul use to describe our state before we were forgiven (V6, 8, 10)? What do these words tell us?

10. How can we be confident that we will be spared from wrath (V9-10)?

11. What is the proper response to reconciliation (V11)?

12. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. What do these verses tell us about our state before Christ? What do they tell us about God's purposes for his children and how we should respond to his love through Christ?

13. How can you find joy in God's love for you? What misconceptions about God are corrected in these verses? Do you struggle to believe God's love for you? If so, how can you have deeper trust in his love?

14. In light of his love through Christ, what response does God most want from you? How can you express it to him?