

I AM S.H.A.P.E.d By God

“The CODE” Series – Part 06

A 15 Minute Study Guide- Read Romans 5:1-5

1. When you read verses 1-2, what statement or truth presented by the Apostle Paul is most meaningful for you? How does it capture your imagination?
2. How can you rejoice when you experience sorrow and trouble?
3. Can you reflect upon a time when an unpleasant experience strengthened your endurance, and built your character in a positive way? Journal that experience and end that narrative with a written prayer of thanksgiving.

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A Fuller Study Guide-

Connect question: If you could choose any one of these talents, which would you choose: singing, writing, acting, or artistic skill? Why?

Introduction: In our recent study on our core values at Grace Hills Church, it was stated that all believers are S.H.A.P.E.d for ministry. God uses spiritual gifts, our heart’s passion, our abilities, our personality, and our life experiences to shape us to carry out His purpose for our life. Ephesians 2 declares that we are God’s “masterpiece”.

If an artist could capture your “SHAPE” and purpose with a single painting, what would the artist paint: A portrait, a landscape, or an abstract work? Why?

Today, let’s look at an instance where personal suffering and trials can be Divine interventions to create His masterpiece in each of us.

Romans 5:1-5

Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

Rom 5:2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

Rom 5:3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance.

Rom 5:4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

Rom 5:5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.

Discuss the importance of the following experiences listed in verses 1 and 2:

1. As sinners who deserve separation from God, how are we made right in God's sight?
2. Why do we need "peace with God" and how does Jesus provide that peace?
3. What was Paul describing when he states we are in a "place of undeserved privilege"?
4. What do you suppose it looks like for us to "share in God's glory"?

How has suffering/trials helped you to build up your "endurance"?

What is your greatest strength of character and how has God developed that strength within you?

If we feel depressed and discouraged in our trials, should we just accept it or fight it? How would you fight it?

How would you counsel someone who states they do not feel loved by God.

How can we know that our hope of heaven will not disappoint?

Homework:

Answer the following and see how God is creating His masterpiece in you:

1. List one or two of your spiritual gifts:
2. What breaks your heart? What is your passion:
3. List what you believe is your God-given ability/abilities:
4. Circle the following words that fit your personality: Introvert or Extrovert, Task Oriented or People Oriented
5. What major life experiences have best prepared you for ministry: