



## Week #1: A New Standing

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. 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 person, though for a good person 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. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while 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! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

Romans 5:1-11 (NIV)

**Opening Idea:** I am brand new because I have been \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus. (v.1)

### Being brand new means I now:

- Have \_\_\_\_\_ with God. (v.1)
- Stand in \_\_\_\_\_. (v.2)
- I have a changed \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (v.2)
- I have a different \_\_\_\_\_. (vv.3-5)

**Final Thought:** I am Brand New \_\_\_\_\_ because of \_\_\_\_\_. (vv.6-11)

**Discussion questions:**

1. Where in your life do you still live as if you are not at peace with God? What evidence—emotional, relational, or spiritual—reveals that tension?
2. When you think about your relationship with God, do you relate more through performance or through grace? What would it look like to stand—not strive—in grace this week?
3. How might your current suffering or challenge be reframed if you truly believed God is forming perseverance, character, and hope in you?
4. Spend 5–10 minutes each day this week sitting quietly before God. Breathe slowly and repeat: “I have peace with God through Jesus Christ.”
  - What resistance rises in you as you try to simply receive this truth?
  - Where do you sense God inviting you to stop striving and begin trusting?

**Recommended resources:**

[\*The Good and Beautiful God\*](#) by James Bryan Smith  
[\*Sinners at the Hands of a Loving God\*](#) by Brian Zahnd  
[\*Romans for Everyone\*](#) by NT Wright

(NIV) New International Version

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Romans 5:1-11 (NIV)

**Opening Idea:** I am brand new because I have been justified through faith in Jesus. (v.1)

**Being brand new means I now:**

- Have peace with God. (v.1)
- Stand in grace. (v.2)
- I have a changed present and future. (v.2)
- I have a different perspective. (vv.3-5)

**Final Thought:** I am Brand New all because of Jesus. (vv.6-11)

**Discussion questions:**

1. Where in your life do you still live as if you are not at peace with God? What evidence—emotional, relational, or spiritual—reveals that tension?
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