

Romans 8 Church-wide Study

Small Group Session 8 – More than Conquerors

INTRODUCTION

This is the final week of our study. It has been an incredible journey through the greatest chapter of the Bible. Today's text is the glorious climax of Paul's testimony of the steadfast love and grace of God. In today's discussion, we are going to take a look at the 7 questions Paul asks in Romans 8:31-39. These questions will shape our discussion over the final section in Romans 8.

Pay close attention to the questions as we read Romans 8:31-39 (*read it aloud as a group*)

“³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² 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? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

³⁶ As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:31-39 – NIV)

OPENING PRAYER

During this prayer, thank God for His provision. Thank Him for the journey He has taken us on through Romans 8, and ask Him to reveal a transformational truth to each of the people in the group today.

WHAT IS THE CONDITION OF YOUR SOUL?

As we have done the past couple of weeks, invite your group to subdivide into very small groups of two or three people and ask each other this very important question: *“How is it with your soul”?*

PLEASE BREAK INTO GROUPS OF 2 OR 3 AND DO THIS AT THIS TIME NOW

WATCH THE PANEL DISCUSSION VIDEO

1. What caught your attention as you listened to the panelists discuss Romans 8:31-39?

GROUP DISCUSSION

These questions Paul asks in verses 31-39 are all about God's love for His children.

QUESTION #1 – “What, then, shall we say about these things?” (v. 31)

- This is the transitional question that connects all that Paul has written in chapter 8 with this final concluding section. **What are the important truths Paul has communicated thus far in Romans 8?** (“no condemnation” – v.1; “live in the Spirit versus life in the flesh” – vv.2-8; “being empowered by the Spirit” – vv.9-11; “our indebtedness to the Spirit” – vv.12-13; “the benefits of being adopted into God’s family” – vv.14-17; “the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed to us” – v.18; “all of creation is awaiting and anticipating this coming glory” – vv.19-22; “we groan and wait with perseverance for this coming glory” – vv.23-25; “the Spirit is always helping us in our weaknesses” – vv.26-27; “God works all things together for good for His children” – vv.28-30).
 - **What do you have to say about these things?**

QUESTION #2 – “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (v. 31)

- This is one of the four most impactful statements in Romans 8. “There is, therefore, now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (v. 1); “And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose” (v. 28); “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (v. 31); and “(nothing) will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (v. 39).
 - **How does this question in verse 31 impact the way you approach the situations and circumstances you face each day?**
- Verses 31 & 32 really have 2 reminders at the root of them. The first reminder is of the presence of the Holy Spirit already existing in their lives.
 - **How do you know/experience this?**
- The second reminder is about what God has already done for His people in giving His Son to die on the cross
 - **Have you opened this gift?**

QUESTION #3 – “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?” – (v. 32)

- God will withhold NOTHING as He takes care of us. Peter wrote in 2 Peter 1: “*May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness*” (2 Peter 1:2, 3a)
 - **What does this say to you about God’s provision in your life?**
 - **What difference does this make for you?**

QUESTION #4 – “Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?” (v. 33)

- Douglas Moo writes about this: *“’Bring a charge’ is the first of the explicitly judicial terms in this context. The future tense of the verb focuses attention on the last judgment: who will stand and accuse us at that time? To be sure, Satan, the ‘accuser,’ may seek to do so; so may our enemies and, perhaps most persuasively of all, our own sins. But no accusation will be effective because it is against God’s ‘elect’ (or ‘chosen’) that the accusation is being made; and as Paul has shown in verses 28-30, those who are God’s elect (chosen) ones by virtue of His calling and purpose are assured of glory. In a sense, then, this manner of designating Christians in the question itself is the only answer required.”*
- Another commentator said, *“We know the answer to this question is Satan. But what real authority does he have to accomplish anything other than to make a lot of noise? It does not matter what the prosecuting attorney says about you when the judge has already personally paid the price for your justification.”*
 - **What does it mean to you that because you have been justified by God, that your standing before God never changes?**
 - **How does this help you withstand the spiritual warfare that you face in life?**

QUESTION #5 – “Who is he that condemn?” (v. 34)

- **What do you think Paul means by asking this question?**
- Kent Hughes says: *“If accusations are brought against us, we need not fear, for the charges are silenced by the upraised, pierced hands of our Intercessor. If we are to be condemned, it will have to be over Christ’s dead and now resurrected body, which actually is the basis of our salvation.”*
 - **What does this statement say to you, and how does it impact your relationship with Jesus?**
 - **What power does a jury have if the judge determines the defendant is not guilty?**
 - **How can you remind your accuser (Satan) of this fact? (Read Hebrews 4:13-5:16)**

QUESTION #6 – “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” (v. 35a)

- **What are some of the things that separate you from Christ’s love?**

QUESTION #7 – “Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?” (v. 35b)

- Paul was speaking autobiographically here, because he had experienced all of these things. **How have you experienced any of these?**

FINAL DECLARATION – “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the

future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (vv. 37-39)

- Tim Keller writes: “Paul is convinced that nothing ‘will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.’ Nothing in human experience (‘neither death nor life’); in the spiritual realm (‘neither angels nor demons’); in time (‘neither the present nor the future’); in anything that opposes God’s people (‘any powers’); in space (‘neither height nor depth’); nothing in all creation! Nothing! Can separate us from Christ’s love!”
 - **What does this say to you about God?**
 - Paul says that we aren’t just conquerors, we are “more than conquerors.” The Greek word for this is *hypernikao* which means “super conquerors”. **How does knowing this, coupled with the rest of verses 38-39 help you live a victorious life?**

When Jerry finished the reading of Romans 8 in the sermon on Sunday, what were your first thoughts?

OR

If you could write a response to this chapter, would be your thesis statement?