

Romans 8:31-39

More Than A Conqueror

Image Church // Romans 8 // Week 6

Intro:

Image family... Grab your Bibles, and turn to **Romans 8**!¹

Grab your phones real quick: I want to make sure you know about an additional tool that we have for you, it's a **Podcast** called **Living Beyond Sunday... Slide**

- The goal is to help equip you for Christianity in everyday life...
- This is big, especially in light of all that God's been doing here we want to give you handles on the Christian life... *Good tool this summer!*

Alright, if you're new with us, we're **finishing** our series through **Romans 8**... Where we're answering the question, *what are the implications of the finished work of Jesus on my life?*

- *And How does something that happened in the past impact me today?*

We're going to pick up in the last part of **Romans 8**... Where Paul says this in **Verse 31**:

Romans 8:31-39

31 What, then, are we to say about these things?

Paul brings us to this big ending where He wants us to draw us into the implications of everything he's been saying...

And the way that he does that is by asking a series of **rhetorical questions**...

The purpose of a **rhetorical question** is to make a point...

Illustration: This about it like this, *if you ask me if I want to come over for a steak dinner, I would say:*

- Does a one-legged duck swim in a circle? **The answer is yes, of course it does!**
- I'm not really asking a question, I'm making a point!

This is what Paul's doing here... He's making a point through the questions He's asking!

So Paul starts here by saying: **31** What, then, are we to say about these things?

What are **these things** that Paul's talking about??

- Could be of **chapter 8**:

That *there is no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus*...

Romans 8:1

- *Jesus was condemned our place so that we could be set free from condemnation...*
- Jesus would go to the cross in our place, dying the death that was meant for us, and then He would rise from the dead, completing everything necessary to save us...
- **His perfect life in our place, His sacrificial death in our place...**

And we receive the work of Christ through the **Holy Spirit**...

- That gives you access to **new life**, setting you free from sin and death!
- And giving you access to a **new power**...

¹ Works Consulted: JD Greear, *Greatest Chapter in the Bible Pt 4: More than Conquerors*; Joby Martin, *More than Conquerors*.

- That the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power in you, and His resurrection gives way to your resurrection both in this life **and** the life to come...

And through the resurrection, we have a **new Identity**... We've been adopted as sons and daughters... We are children of God, coheirs with Christ...

Which gives us a **new hope** we can look to because the suffering that we face is not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed to us one day...

Could be that when Paul says **What, then, are we to say about these things?** That he's referring to **verses 28-30**...

That in the meantime, as we wait in hope, we have a **new confidence**.

The Spirit helps you in your weakness as you walk through the brokenness of this world...

- You're not alone or left to fend for yourself, that God is with you and working even when you can't see it...
- God's not absent in your suffering, He's active in the midst of it...
- He's working all things for your good and His glory...

That in the same way that God faithfully worked to bring about your salvation, He is faithfully working in and through your circumstances to bring about your good and His glory!

- And that Christ's work for you on the cross isn't the end, it's the beginning of God's plan for restoration where He will make all things new, and you can have confidence that God's going to finish what He started...
- *For those He predestined and called to Himself, He's justified, and He will also glorify...*

This is not the end... God is weaving together something beautiful in the midst of the brokenness that we face in this life...

- In this we see the incredible nature of God... He could have left us to our brokenness, but instead, He provided a way out...
- And not only did He provide a way out, but He says I'm with you right now and I'm working...
- He's not absent, he hasn't left us to ride it out until He returns... *He faithfully walks with us through the valleys of the shadow of death...*

He says in your weakest moments, I'm here... And though you may not be able to see it He says that your pain isn't pointless, I redeem even the darkest things for your good and my glory, just look at the cross!

Because when you look at the cross, you see my love and the great lengths I went to in order to save you, and in the cross, you see my power and evidence of my plan... And that there's no one and nothing that can stand in the way of what I'm doing!

That's what **these things are that Paul's talking about...** *And it leads Him to the next question that he asks...*

If God is for us, who is against us?

The point: **no one!**

- The problem is we don't often feel that way, we feel like we got all kinds of people against us!

What Paul's communicating here **isn't that we'll never face opposition...** The point he wants us to get is that the opposition we face pales in comparison to the reality that we as Christians walk in...

- God and for us, and no one can compete with Him, no one can stop Him, no one can dictate His plan...

Illustration: As a kid growing up, you know where I felt the safest when I was with my dad...

- My dad could fix anything, was tough as nails, and scared of nothing...
- No animal and no human...
- I believed that my dad could kick your dads but... I still do, by the way...
 - *He ain't as good as he once was, but he's good once as he ever was...*
- He's a big fella, but as a kid, he was a giant...
- In my mind, he was the best at everything, knew everything and could control the outcome of about everything so that he could save me from any danger...

See, the reason I felt safe around my dad wasn't because there weren't any dangers, **but because I believe that my dad was bigger than all of them...**²

This is what Paul wants us to see... That as we walk through opposition...

Note: God is not reactive in this... Not running up saying *hey, don't mess with my kid...* And then *let me figure out how I can fix this...*

- This **isn't** pointing to God running to your defense, it's pointing to the reality that everything submits to God...
- **There is nothing and no one that can stand in the way of those whom God is for...**
- Not even your circumstances!

There is a freedom from fear that Paul wants to point us to...

- *If God is for you, who **or what** can compete with that? He is sovereign and in control...*
- Some of you need to see God as bigger than the thing opposing you right now...

And it's because He's over all things that you can know that He's working in, and through all things, for your good and His glory!

I know this is hard for some of you to believe right now...

Verse 32:

32 He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything?

You want to know if God's really for you... He gave up His Son for you...

- *Press in...*

If God did this to save you, can you not believe that He's with you and for you?

*I think one of the challenges for us and why we miss this is because we think God is for us means that everything is about us...

- Think this way you miss what God is doing...

What I want you to see is that God was willing to pay for your salvation... He was willing to give up His Son for you...

- Jesus was sacrificed in your place so that you could be set free...

If God did this to save you, do you really think once He saves you that He's going to leave you...

My mentor Pastor JD Greear says it like this: *Why would God [invest in your salvation] and then not supply what you need to accomplish His will? Why would he rescue you from sin but not give you help in your marriage? Why supply for you the Holy Spirit but withhold wisdom from you in your parenting?*

You will have **everything** you need to do what God's called you to do!

² Punchline in this illustration from JD Greear. Illustration idea from JD via Joby Martin. However, I used my words to describe my reality with my dad.

- If He didn't withhold Christ but gave him up for you, you can know that He's going to give you everything else that you need to be and do what He's called you to be and do!
 - Really encouraging... Take the pressure off of us, and put our confidence in Him!
 - Alleviates the anxious uncertainty in us...

Want to know one of the main ways that we receive what we need from God?? **Word of God, people of God, Spirit of God...**

Some of you need to lean in on this...

*The reason why some of you feel like you don't have what you need to do what God's called you to do is that you're not leaning into the tools He's given you to receive them!

- A lot of you spend more time looking for supplemental tools...
 - **BTW:** Supplemental tools are helpful when they expound on the truths of God, not replace them...

If He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything?

Verse 33:

33 Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies.

Here's the thing, we often feel accused by the enemy or by ourselves...

- Guilt and shame are some of the greatest tools of the enemy...
- This subdues you, oppresses you, and makes you feel unworthy and unusable...
- For some of you, this is one of your biggest issues... you don't feel good enough...

The lie of the enemy is that you stand condemned...

But the gospel is that you have been **justified...**

GOSPEL CONNECTION...

Illustration: The president has the ability to pardon anyone for crimes committed...

- If the President uses this power and pardons an individual, it would make no sense for them to head to the prison and ask for a cell...
- They've been pardoned of their crime, they have been set free!

I think for so many of us we live as the accused when Jesus has said acquitted!

Which leads Paul to this question in **verse 34:**

34 Who is the one who condemns?

Who can come and stand toe to toe with the God of the universe and condemn you?!?

Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us.

The reason no one can condemn you is because of the work of Christ...

- He was condemned in your place, but He didn't stop there, He raised you from the dead so that He could extend to us His finished work in our place...

And when we receive what Christ has accomplished for us, he becomes our advocate...

Jesus intercedes for you... IOW: *He's ensuring that the justifying verdict for which he died is applied to us in the judgment.*³

³ Douglas J. Moo, The Epistle to the Romans, The New International Commentary on the New Testament, 542.

There's no way that God can condemn you, and there's no way that God can punish you because Jesus is there saying I've been punished in your place!!

Which leads Paul to the next question, **Verse 35:**

35 Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

36 As it is written:

**Because of you
we are being put to death all day long;
we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered.**

Man, Paul is always one step ahead of us...

We tend to think that when things happen to us, it's indicative of God's love toward us... What Paul shows us is that's not the case...

Paul quotes **Psalm 44:22**... Explain...

What we see through the work of God in Christ is the love of God for us regardless of the circumstances around us...

Verse 37:

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

More than conquerors? The wording in the Greek is unique *hyper conquerors*...

The key: we are **more than conquerors through him who loved us.**

- Not in our strength but in His!!!

Verse 38

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul gives a list of things that could possibly disrupt and rupture our relationship with Christ: death, life, angels, demons, the present, the future, powers, height, depth, anything else in all creation.

- There is nothing in this universe that can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. We know that we are ultimately safe and secure in Christ.

What happens when people become persuaded? They become convinced and people who are convinced have convictions; and people who have convictions live according to principles.⁴

Conclusion [VAMP]

Appeal...

Challenge: I want to encourage you to really let these things sink into your heart this morning... There's **information**, and there's **formation**.

- Information is knowing about something, formation is when it impacts your heart, and your life becomes formed around it...

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⁴ R. C. Sproul, *The Gospel of God: An Exposition of Romans* (Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 1994), 160.

Reflect and Discuss

- Read through Romans 8:31-39, does anything stand out?
- Read Romans 8:31-35, what do you think the main point of this section of Paul's writing is?
- Read Romans 8:36, what do you think the implications of this reference to the Old Testament are?
 - Read Psalm 44:22 for reference
- What does it mean to say that "nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus"?
- Read Romans 8:37-39, what reassurance does this give for Christians?