



Connect Discussion Guide

02.27.22 Message | Tyler Myers | Romans 8:1-39

Key Scriptures:

For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh...

- Romans 8:3

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

- Romans 8:9

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Romans 8:32-39

Message Highlights:

- The spirit isn't pushing you toward performance, it is inviting you into purpose
- The expansion of God's kingdom in and through you is what ultimately leads to liberation and life
- Paul, who experienced meaningful life change, tells us we experience the expansion of God's kingdom in our life when we do life through the Spirit
- Our prayer is that people would pursue a God who desires to come near them

Conversation Starter:

Describe an experience you've had that unleashed a feeling of freedom, or of living life to the fullest. This could be an excursion on a vacation, an outdoor activity or something else of the like. Why do you think this experience had that effect on you?

Discuss the Message:

1. Ponder Paul's question in Romans 8:31b; "If God is for us, who can be against us?"
 - a. How and why do we complicate that question?
2. Most of us want to live life in the spirit, but don't foster the things in life that expand, or unleash, the spirit's capacity within us.
 - a. Explore the tension of this reality with your group.
 - b. How might prayer play into the spirit's expansion in us?
3. What are the fruits we bear when we are living in the spirit?
 - a. Which of these fruits feels the most unnatural for you and why do you think that is?
4. When God's people experience the liberation that comes with living this new life in the spirit, life changes. How might you...
 - a. Express your gratitude more emphatically?
 - b. Live more generously?
 - c. Care differently about temporary things in this world?
 - d. Become more passionate about the conversations that matter most?
5. The Spirit isn't pushing us toward performance, but rather is inviting us into purpose.
 - a. Describe the contrast between striving for performance and stepping into purpose.
 - b. Thinking back to last week's sermon, bring God's grace into the conversation. What role does God's grace play in helping us step into our purpose rather than striving for performance?

Pray:

Father in Heaven, words cannot fully express the depth of gratitude we feel because you did not spare your own Son, but gave him up for us. Because of your extravagant display of love towards us, we trust in you to graciously give us all things that we truly need. When it feels like the world is against us, remind us of your love and that you are for us. Holy Spirit, give us the grace to consistently engage in the things that expand your work in and through our lives. Amen.