



What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. *Romans 8:31-33*



What is one “good” thing that you regularly tell others or believe others should do, but you don't do it yourself?

Read Romans 8:31-39

1. What does the statement “God is for us” clearly mean? (*not what it feels like, but what it actually declares*)
 - What is easier to accept, that God loves all people, or that God is personally for you? Why?
 - Romans 8:32 points to the cross as proof that God is for us, how does Jesus' sacrifice answer the fear that God may be disappointed in us?
 - How do passages like John 3:16-17 and Ephesians 2:4-7 emphasise God's posture towards us?
2. In Romans 8:33-34 Paul asks who will bring a charge against God's chosen – why do you think so many Christians still live under condemnation?
 - Which voice do you find accuses you the most? (*our own thoughts, other people, past failures, fear of disappointing God*)
 - How does the truth of justification challenge those accusations? (*justified – the act of being declared righteous before God because of faith in Jesus finished work on the cross*)

3. Romans 8:35-37 lists a number of hardships, what are some of the hardships we may face today?
 - Why do people often interpret hardships as evidence that God is displeased with them?
 - Paul has personally experienced great suffering, yet remained convinced of God's love – how does that help us in how we interpret our suffering?
4. Why do you believe Paul seems to labour the point a little on things that cannot separate us from God? (Romans 8:38-39)
 - What item from this list stands out for you right now? Why?
 - How does Jesus reinforce the same truth in John 10:27-29?
 - Jesus says His Father is more powerful than anyone – what situation or circumstance in your life feels more powerful than God right now?
 - How can you all remind each other of God's supreme power, and hold on each of you?
5. Read Luke 15:11-32 The younger brother experienced grace. The older brother struggled with grace. What was the fundamental difference between them?
 - Which brother's attitude do you find more relatable and why?
 - How can long-term church involvement sometimes tempt people to think like the older brother?
 - Why does grace often offend our natural sense of fairness?
6. Go around the group and answer:

Which of these truths do you most need to carry into this week?

- God is FOR me
 - Jesus is WITH me
 - NOTHING can separate me from God's love
 - I don't have to EARN what Jesus has already secured
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