



### **Sermon Discussion Questions: Romans 8:1-39**

#### **Romans 8:1-4**

1. Share a time when you either were condemned or felt condemned for your disobedience. What were the circumstances? How were things resolved? (i.e., Were you forgiven? Did you have to pay a penalty? Are you still “under condemnation”)?
2. When God says there is no condemnation for those who in Christ Jesus, what does that mean? What did Jesus do for His people? How should this fact impact believers?
3. Talk about the difference between being convicted of our sin and being under condemnation for our sin. How should a believer think about and respond to these realities similarly or differently?
4. To what extent are you still tempted to live under condemnation even though you are in Christ? How might you fight against these tendencies with the truth of the gospel? Spend some time praying for one another as a group.

#### **Romans 8:5-11**

1. Share a time you saw (or participated in) a fight. What happened? Who won?
2. The Apostle Paul says that there is a war (a hostility) between the flesh and the Spirit. How have you experienced this battle in your heart and life (both before and after conversion)?
3. What are some practical ways you’ve recently seen setting your mind on the Spirit leading to life and peace while setting your mind on the flesh leading to death? How might reminding yourself of these consequences help you in your ongoing fight against the flesh and sin?
4. How might the importance of the resurrection help us in our salvation and sanctification right now? (Look back at Romans 4:25; 5:17, 21; 6:4-5 for help.)
5. Paul speaks of the Holy Spirit’s work in believers. How have you seen Him change your heart, actions, and desires since coming to faith? How would you like Him to change you right now? Spend time as a group praying for one another.

### **Romans 8:12-17**

1. Talk about your earthly father. What was he like? What did he teach you rightly or wrongly about your heavenly father?
2. What does it look like to live according to the flesh or be “led by the Spirit of God” in this passage?”
3. What sin keeps rearing its ugly head in your life? What would it look like to practically seek to put it to death? Take some time to pray that the Spirit would give you the strength to obey and follow Jesus into freedom and holiness, and then ask your group or a particular group member to help and encourage you.
4. God wants for His people to experience the Spirit of adoption rather than the spirit of slavery. Which “spirit” do you primarily operate under? Why?
5. What privileges is God inviting you to enjoy as His child right now? How might viewing God as your Father who has adopted you transform the way you think about your prayers, sorrows, sins, needs, and future?

### **Romans 8:18-25**

1. What was it like waiting for your child or sibling to be born? For the mommies, how did you experience the groanings and pains of childbirth compared to receiving the glory of your child(ren)?
2. The Apostle Paul compares waiting for the birth of children to waiting for the glory of heaven. How might remembering this earthly experience help you during your time of suffering when you wait for this future heavenly experience?
3. How did the Fall affect both creation and our bodies (pay attention to words like futility, bondage, decay)? How might these verses shape our understanding of what we currently experience in our world, our bodies, our minds, and our hearts?
4. The word translated “futility” in verse 20 is the same word translated “vanity” in Ecclesiastes, but, according to these verses, the pattern of futility will be broken. What does it mean that the creation has been subjected “in hope?” How might that future reality shape how we view the world now?
5. What will the new heavens and earth be like? Dream for a moment. When that day arrives, what will you think? What will you feel? What will you say? What most excites you about “the glory to be revealed to us” (verse 18) and why?

### **Romans 8:26-30**

1. Share a time when you sensed the Holy Spirit help you in a time of weakness.
2. How does the Spirit help us in our prayers? How might this promise that the Spirit intercedes for you when you’re weak bring comfort to you when you’re in a season of doubt, dryness, or struggle with sin?
3. Verse 28 does not say “all things are good,” but “all things work together for good.” Why should believers make this distinction? How might this distinction help us when we experience great suffering or hardship?
4. What does verse 29 reveal about the “good” God is working all things together for in verse 28? How have you experienced this truth in your life? If you’re

experiencing great difficulty in your life right now, how might your group not only pray about the circumstances but also for God to bring good through it?

5. Verses 29 and 30 reveal the one who is accomplishing this “chain-link of salvation”—being foreknown, predestined, called, justified, and glorified. Who is it? Also, what is the tense of each word in this chain of events? How might both these realities encourage you today?

### **Romans 8:31-39**

1. What questions have you wrestled with the most in your Christian walk?
2. Paul lists a series of questions and answers that believers often wrestle with, especially in times of suffering and sin. Which of these questions do you most identify with? How might Paul’s answer help you in your doubts.
3. All of Paul’s questions begin with “who” and then he answers them with a who—God Himself. How might this help you in your doubts or fears? Who should you turn to when you’re struggling?
4. Jesus right now is interceding for you. How does that make you feel? What do you think He might be praying for you, given your situation, your heart, your struggles, etc.?
5. The Apostle Paul provides several promises that God makes to His people. Which promise do you most need to remember right now?
6. Paul lists many things that we might be tempted to think can separate us from God’s love. Which one do you most identify with? How might God’s promise that “nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus” help you?