



July 26, 2026 | *Who is for Us?* | Pastor Eddie Eddy

Romans 8:26-8:39 NIV *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.*

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

What then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 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? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. 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. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long;

we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

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.

L: The word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

Who is for us?

This is one of my favorite passages in the Bible. Especially the words in verses 31-39, they make such a powerful statement about God's love in Jesus. These verses are used quite often at funerals because they seem to be what people need to hear when a loved one dies: "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or persecution?"

Did you notice that Paul asks a lot of questions in these verses? Chances are you may have asked them a time or two yourselves. You see, when we grieve, we often have questions. "Why did my child die?" or "What will I do now that my spouse of 35 years is gone?" ...My company closed and now I don't know what to do.

Folks...this is where our faith comes into play, in verse 28 we read that, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God." A statement we have trouble with after a significant loss like a spouse, child, or any other tragedy you can think of. Quite honestly, those are questions that we don't necessarily get the answers to. Only God has those answers. Yet...those "why" questions are the ones we tend to focus on.

In our passage though...Paul wants us to focus on the "who" questions that he's asking. Paul asks these questions to challenge us to center our hearts on God and believe that He loves us and is always with us, even at times when it seems that death or evil or hate have won. We see that each and every day...and unfortunately...there doesn't look like there is a way out very soon.

So this morning...Let's highlight a couple of those "who" questions for the next few minutes...and then...I hope it starts a trend or a habit for you when we face some of the storms in life.

SHORT PAUSE

The first question I would like us to examine is: "**Who** will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies." God is the Judge and He has already acquitted us. And since "It is God who justifies." our justification can never be overthrown. 2 Cor. 5:21 tells us, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that **we** might become the righteousness of God in Him." The word "justified" means that God has wiped the record book clean and it's as if we have never sinned. We are cleared from all the charges against us; so if we have been declared "not guilty" by the highest Supreme Judge in the universe....who can bring any kind of charge against us? Nobody, not even judge Judy!

Who is for us?

PAUSE

Question #2 Who...Paul then asks, "**Who** is to condemn?" You've heard the words of condemnation just like I have, sometimes there in our own voices... in our own heads. "There's no way God could love you, you're a sinner!" Where do those words of condemnation come from?

Well I can tell you this...they don't come from God. Revelation 12:10 tells us that Satan is accusing Christians of sin day and night.

So...take a moment and picture it? Here's God...the Judge...sitting behind this huge bench and we're brought before Him, Satan starts ranting about our sins, he carefully recounts every terrible thing we have done in our lives.

But we have the greatest defense attorney in the world! "It is Jesus...who indeed intercedes for us." Jesus sits there patiently while Satan makes his case about how we don't deserve to go to Heaven. God asks Jesus what his defense for you is. Jesus rises and approaches the bench and does nothing more than hold up his hands...And God says, "case dismissed".

Who is for us?

PAUSE

Now we come to my favorite verse in this passage, Paul's question of, "If God is for us, who is against us?"

Here is what I like about Paul. He is so good with his words. He could have simply asked the question... "Who is against us?"...I can only imagine how many people would have been ready to make a claim. Every person here today...every person who lives on this planet...has some form of opposition or complaint. It's not always another person that causes our challenges either.

We all face disease, disappointment, or difficult circumstances at different times in our lives...But that's not the question Paul asked. His question is, "If **God** is **for us**, who can be against us?" And you see. That preface makes this a whole other question.

Think about this...when Paul wrote these words...he knew **very well** who was against him. Paul knew that the Jews were against him. The Romans were against him. The false teachers were against him. The magicians in Ephesus were against him. Satan and all his followers were against him. Paul was extremely aware of not only **who** was against him...but also **what** was against him. He wrote in Ephesians 6:12, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

You see...based on the idea that "God" is "for us," Paul wants us to think about the implications. "If God is for us [as God promises to be], who is against us?" Hear what Paul is saying... Paul's not saying that we have no opposition. His question of "Who" is intended to point out the insignificance of **any opponent** in light of the fact that "God" ...who can do anything...**is for us**.

PAUSE

There was a movie out a several years ago called "The Bear," and it has a scene where a little grizzly cub is being chased by a mountain lion. The life of the little cub seems to be in imminent danger as a mountain lion moves in for the kill. Suddenly, the cub stands up on its hind legs and lets out the fiercest growl it can muster.

Immediately, the mountain lion shrinks back! The camera slowly draws back to reveal that...just behind the cub...stands the massive grizzly who had adopted him. The Father reared on his hind legs, towering over the cub...Declaring a fierce warning to the mountain lion. In the cub's eyes...the enemy was great.

But in the protective shadow of the giant grizzly, that mountain lion was nothing. With the giant grizzly as its protection, the mountain lion seemed to lose its power. With God on our side...as we stand in God's shadow...who or what could possibly be an opponent that would cause us to shrink back in fear? As we stand in the Shadow of the "ONE" who is for us...our trust and confidence should grow as much...as our enemy's power over us...will diminish.

What Paul is implying is, "Since God is for us, what difference does it make who is against us?" We might be intimidated, **but we shouldn't be...** because we stand in God's shadow. The God who loves us, the God who died for us...He is on our side.

Friends... let me finish this up for today.

Paul writes," 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.

That is it. That pretty much sums up the entire Christian gospel. God is for us, and nothing can separate us from that love.

Yet even though God stands behind us like the father grizzly bear... we sometimes ask...

Where was God's love when a young woman has to bury her husband who died in the line of duty? How do we proclaim that God is with us to the grandmother whose grandbaby was injured from stray bullet in a gang shooting? Where is God's love when people are living in fear of the next new virus...or way...or weather disaster? No one is immune from it. This church family has felt the loss of everything that was familiar.

If God loves us so much, where was God then? Where is God in our pain? Almost everyone has wanted to know the answer to that question at one time or another. Almost everyone has known a time when they felt separated from God's presence and God's love...a time when they felt dreadfully alone...when they wondered how anyone could say that God is for us. I feel it too.

Yet, Paul says, without no doubt. God is for us, and nothing...**absolutely nothing** can separate us from that love.

Friends...God's love is not a magic potion that can protect us from the hurts of life. Just because we are children of God...because we are engulfed in his shadow...doesn't mean that we will be shielded from suffering, illness, sadness...death. And just because he doesn't shield us, we can't blame God when we do go through tough times. The cub still had to face the lion.

God's love is the shadow we stand in and that is comforting. When we suffer, He suffers with us. When we grieve, He grieves with us. When we cry, He cries with us, when we are in a battle...he stands beside us...his arm around our shoulders, supporting us, holding us up. Paul affirms the security of these things in this passage.

He asks 4 questions: "Who is against us?", "Who will bring any charge against God's elect?", "Who is to condemn?", and "Who will separate us from the love of Christ?". These are rhetorical questions with the answer of "no one". God loves us and nothing and no one can separate us from that love.

Let me close with this phrase, I use this saying a lot because I believe it to be true. Faith does not get us out of the hard times; Faith gets us through the hard times. And we have that faith because of "Who is for us."

To God be the glory, Amen.