

Romans 8:31-34

Who Can Be Against Us

1. 8:29-30 – To Be Conformed to Christ

- a. He did predestinate – called – justified - glorified – in each ‘to the image of his Son’
- b. The paired terms are logical, but not chronological (the colon in the KJ helps)
- c. This summary of sanctification under grace as joined with Christ (mystery) – Rom 15:16
- d. (31) Position, (32) inheritance, (33) righteousness, (34) Christ’s work ... all by grace.

2. 8:31 – Who Can Be Against Us

- a. *“What shall we then say to these things?”* – in 8:29-30, but also a conclusion to ch. 3-8
- b. *“If ... ”* – This has been proven true by grace, not unknown or hypothetical
- c. *“God be for us”* – Notice all “he” does for you in 8:29-30, ch.5-8, while you are weak.
- d. The Father justifies us, Christ died for us, the Spirit dwells in us = God is for us.
- e. *“who can be against us?”* - Rom 7:24 is the cry of defeat, Rom 8:31 is the cry of victory!

3. 8:32 – Freely Give

- a. *“He that spared not his own Son”* – Which is love - Isa 53:10-11, 1 John 4:10, Rom 3:25
 - i. (note: not ‘divine child abuse’ because the Son purposed it and did it willingly)
- b. *“for us all”* – Not only Israel, or the righteous (1Jo 2:2-3, 1Pet 4:18), but sinners Rom 5:8
- c. *“how shall he not”* – The Holy One given to sinners by grace, what keeps us from it all?
- d. *“with him also...”* – In addition to giving Christ, he gives more = grace
- e. *“freely give us”* – Essence of God’s dispensed grace – Rom 3:24, 26, 1Co 2:12, Eph 3:2,8
 - i. “freely” shows up next in the eternal kingdom – Isa 54:17, Rev 21:6, 22:17
- f. *“all things”* – that are Christ’s, which are ours by grace – see Eph 3:6

4. 8:33 – God’s Elect

- a. *“any thing to the charge”* = press charges, accusation of crime, indict for sin.
- b. *“of God’s elect”* – Who are the elect? The chosen of God to fulfill his purpose.
- c. Another term that needs rescuing from Calvin: elect/election.
 - i. God has a predestinated purpose/will for all to be in Christ – Eph 1:9-10
 - ii. His purpose fulfilled in Christ thru covenants (Israel) and new creature (mystery)
 - iii. You cannot be in Christ before Christ, so God gave covenants to a nation (Israel)
 - iv. God’s chosen (elect) both Israel and Christ –1 Pet 2:6, Isa 42:1, 45:4, 65:9
 - v. Calvin wrongly taught this elect was us – Matt 24:31, Rom 11:5,7, 1 Pet 2:9
- d. How do you know if you are elect? Wrong answers: by works, unknown eternal decree
- e. *“God that justifieth”* – 1) The elect are the justified, 2) God did the justifying – Rom 3:27
 - i. Justification is by faith – Rom 5:1 (The elect are identified by faith – not works)
 - ii. God’s choice of Christ (not people) before the world -Eph 1:4,3:9,1Co 2:7,2Ti 1:9
 - iii. We are elect “in him” because God made us “accepted” by his grace – Eph 1:6-7
 - iv. When? When we were put in Christ, when we first trust the gospel –Eph 1:12-13
- f. Grace is not God’s election of some (and not others), it is Christ’s work by the cross!

5. 8:34 – No Condemnation

- a. *“condemn”* = worthy of punishment/dead, the issue that started the chapter – 8:1
 - i. Answering the rhetorical – Satan, the world, religious people, you in your flesh.
- b. Christ did the work; how can your works condemn? how can they condemn his work?
- c. *“risen again”* - for your justification, life, walk, glory - Rom 4:25, 5:21,6:4,7:4, Gal 2:20
- d. *“even at the right hand of God”* – where you have a seat - Eph 1:19-23, 2:6, Col 2:10
- e. *“who also maketh intercession for us”* – as the one mediator – 1 Tim 2:5-7
- f. Our position was given us by God, we did not earn our inheritance, we do not deserve our justification, and the work is Christ’s = the grace of God to those that believe.