

Amazing Transformative Questions

Romans 8:31-39 (ESV)

Introduction:

Good Morning! It is great that you are here to worship along side of us, thank you for coming today. We have been in the midst of engaging the books of Daniel and Revelation. We have not gone verse by verse, but we have tackled big and important ideas. Both books point us to the sovereign work of God to lead us to the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

This morning we are going to take a momentary break from Daniel/Revelation. This past week my wife Danni and I attended the NCD Rural and Small Church Pastor's Retreat. First, I want to say thank you Harvest for sending us and encouraging us with a couple of days of getting away to refresh and reconnect with other pastors from the District. Secondly, on the Tuesday night pastor Hector Franco (Morris E. Free) shared a message from **Romans 8:31-39**. As I listened, God was working on my heart. I want to share what God was saying to me, with the hope that it would be helpful, good and encouraging for you. I want to talk with about *"Amazing Transformative Questions."*

The text says in,

Romans 8:31-39 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 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? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 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. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written,

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

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 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 chapter 8 is one of the most powerful chapters in the entire NT.

In this chapter we discover that we are:

1. **Free in Christ Jesus, there is not condemnation Romans 8:1-8**

We also discover that

2. **If we are in Christ, the Spirit of God dwells in you, he is life in you and gives you hope of being raised to eternal life Romans 8:9-11**

Romans 8 gloriously declares that living in the Spirit and being led by the Spirit means

**3. We are granted the Spirit of adoption, we are wanted, and chosen, as children of God
Romans 8:12-17**

4. With creation, we await the revealing of our incomparable glorification Romans 8:18-23

We could stop there, but there is more

5. In this hope we were saved (the resulting promise of God's gift of a literal redemption of both soul/body) Romans 8:23-25

Additional understanding is given to the reader, noting

**6. The Holy Spirit is here to help and God's sovereign grace oversees we get that help
Romans 8:26-30**

Like an attorney, Paul is stacking up evidence before the court. His evidence is laid bare by the questions he will pose to encourage those who are trusting in Jesus, but facing serious trial and affliction. This is why they are "transformative questions," if listened to carefully and answered rightly they will in fact "transform" the way your life is viewed, the way life in Christ is viewed. The list of questions follows:

- 1) **What then shall we say to these things? V31**
- 2) **"...Who can be against us? V 31**
- 3) **"...How will he not also with him graciously give us all things? V 32**
- 4) **Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? V 33**
- 5) **Who is to condemn? V 34**
- 6) **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? V 35**

These questions outline the work of God in the life of the believer as its revealed in Romans 8:

- I. God's providential care v. 31-32**
- II. The eternal security of the believer v. 33-34**
- III. Ultimate victory over suffering v 35-37**

Last week I mentioned the Rhetorical nature of the questions raised by **Hebrews 1:1-14** and the supremacy of Jesus over angels. Here in **Romans 8** we have another rhetorical setting provided in this case by the apostle Paul:

THE QUESTION OF GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL CARE & PROVISION

1. The problem of opposition

Are you opposed by those who do not believe in Jesus? Are you feeling oppressed by evil entities? Are you in some way feeling overcome by life, broken body or a weak faith?

Answer: Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Who can be against us? V 31

Psalms 23:4; Psalms 56:9; Habakkuk 3:17-19

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and **the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

Isaiah 53:12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; **yet he bore the sin of many**, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

How is God my strength? - He has given me his Son, Jesus Christ! In Jesus I have no fear! In Jesus there is no condemnation! In Jesus there is no enemy that can be against me, because Jesus has defeated and will complete his defeat of every foe!

1 John 3:8 The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

2. The problem of human weakness

Are your resources weak or seemingly non-existent? Are you thinking, “I’m struggling in this world, where is my help? I feel like I’m doing this all on my own!”

Don’t be fooled by the image of your “all together Pastor.” Remember, some of these things I’m sharing with you were shared with men and women of God who lead the church and who feel just as alone, empty and at times, shaken, just like you. They too cry out, “God where are you?”

Answer: Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, **who can be against us?**

3. The problem of unreasonable expectations

Even pastor’s can question whether or not they will be saved. Especially if things are not going well in the church, or in their family. The pressure of spiritual expectation and the weight of responsibility can be used by the enemy of our souls to try to overwhelm our minds and hearts.

Answer: Romans 8:33 Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.

The people of the church, the enemy of our soul, the people at work, in the neighborhood, at school or in our family do not, they cannot, have the ability to make a concrete declaration of guilt regarding our judgment. In fact what God has declared, cannot be undone!

Romans 8:1 Is final! **“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”** As Isaiah declared 600-700 years before Jesus was born: **Isaiah 50:8-9**

Answer: Romans 8:34 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.

Hebrews 7:25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

I believe that there are some who are listening that think they have blown it so bad that they are beyond the help even of Jesus. I am here to tell you that that is not possible! Jesus' saving work is absolute and it is perfectly sufficient, in addition it is everlasting - **"...he always lives to make intercession for them."** He is at the right hand of the Father saying, **"Father, this one is good, my blood has been applied, he is mine and he is yours."** And the Father's response is, **"I know, my Son, there is no condemnation for him. Holy Spirit, let him know how much he is loved by me, by us."**

4. The problem of real trials overwhelming us

This world is hard, there are many things that seem to be able to separate me from knowing that God loves me - **"...tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?"**

Answer 3: Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written,

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

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 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.

We don't endure suffering for our faith in Jesus in our own strength, we endure and we conquer "through him who loved us." Yes, the pain is real! Yes, the attacks take toll on our souls! But look at **8:38** Paul writes, **"For I am sure that,"** which could be translated as **"I am persuaded that,"** or **"I am convinced that"**! Meaning, an absolute sense. In my words, **"Not even spiritual beings, devils or demons, or any supposed cosmic forces, even the looming, inevitable end of this world. There is no mountain of pain, no military host, ocean of cancer, or vastness of the universe that can tear me apart from the love God has for me in Christ Jesus!"**

Do you see why these are Transformative Questions?

- Do you have this assurance?
- Do you sleep well at night knowing that if you don't wake up in the morning it is the love of God in Jesus that secures you to the Father's heart, for all eternity?
- Do you know with great confidence that there is nothing, no thing, no human, from demon hell or angel from heaven, that can separate you from God's love for you?