

CALVARY YOUTH

Preparing young people to be disciples of Jesus in study and in practice as they transition into adulthood



An Unexpected Response

Romans 8:31-39

Consider yourself a thief for a moment. On the surface, this is a pretty simple moral issue. If you are found in possession of stolen goods and you were the only person present when the item was stolen, the gavel slams down and you're pronounced "guilty." Let's suppose for a moment that your mom or dad happened to be present in this moment and out of desperation they cried, "WHO SHOULD BRING ANY CHARGE AGAINST MY CHILD!?" How do you imagine the judge would respond? I imagine he would say something like "I, Justice George Clemens, the appointed judge of this county, condemn your child on this count of theft." It's important to note that HE WOULD BE RIGHT TO DO SO! That's his job, that's the title he has earned, and that is well within his authority.

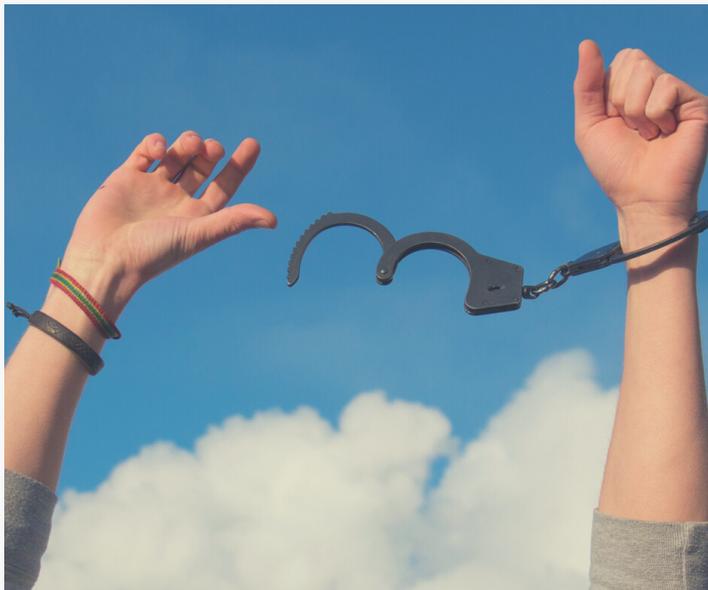
So when Paul asks in Romans 8, 'who shall bring any charge against God's elect?' I imagine the response should be something like, "ONLY I, the GOD OF THE UNIVERSE, the creator of all things, the author of life, the Alpha and Omega, the only Perfect One, of who's authority was given to Me by Myself (as no other could) can bring a charge against My elect." Paul's response however, is interesting. Paul responds with "It is God who justifies." Even more perplexing is the next question and answer. When Paul asks "who is to condemn?" his response is "Christ Jesus... died... was raised... (and is) at the right hand of god... interceding for us."

Paul answers two rhetorical questions with unexpected responses. It's almost as if he intentionally skips the next logical step as to prove a point about our savior. Let's consider the oddity of his first response.

It is God who Justifies.

John Piper, on a recent podcast, pointed out the interesting nature of this response. Paul asks who should bring a charge against God's people and rather than saying that it is *only God* who is worthy to bring any charge against any person, Paul

'Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 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.'
Romans 8:33-34



instead focuses on a different nature of God, namely His right to save us from ourselves. The greater context, you may remember, tells us that there is "no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus" and in the more narrow context Paul is talking about this incredible God who is 'for us' and with whom we cannot be separated from. Who can bring a charge? It is God who has set us free!

Christ Jesus is the one who died, rose, is at the right hand and intercedes

Paul asks who is to condemn God's elect? His answer is CHRIST, the Messiah, who died, who rose, who currently sits in authority, and who *intercedes* for us. It's as if to say that we are un-condemnable! Who can condemn the one who is saved by Christ, the risen Christ who reigns and is even interceding right now as we speak! What a perspective.

So what?

This portion of Romans 8 is most often used by Christians today as claim to confidence and peace. How can we allow the world to strike fear into us when the God of the Universe declared us justified and free!? How can we allow ourselves to feel condemned by the law of the culture of today, when Christ Jesus went up in *our place*, died *for us*, conquered death *on our behalf*, and sits *actively* on his throne interceding *for us*!

So what? I'll tell ya what! Feeling hopeless? The God of hope declared us free from the *only* eternal worry any of us could have. Feeling lost or lonely? Jesus, Savior of the world, *chose YOU*, died in your place, and is currently sitting in authority over the world praying for YOU. The Messiah is interceding for *you*, right now.

Questions For This Week

Prepare to share on Sunday

1. What is Paul's overall big idea in Romans 8:31-39? (You'll need to read it!)
2. What kind of confidence should you have knowing that *no condemnation* can ever happen to you again?
3. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is praying for you right now?

PRAY THIS WEEK

Noah

UPCOMING

NERF SHIELD BUILD

Coming soon!

CONTACT

NATE WILCOX

NATE.WILCOX@HOTMAIL.COM
(720) 284-2105
