

# SMALL GROUP

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## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

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If God is? Who can?  
Romans 8:31-29

### Sermon Summary

The book of Romans was written to a small group of Christians who were suffering hardships and faced persecution. In our passage today, the Apostle Paul uses a series of theological questions to answer for these early Christians, and us today, maybe life's greatest question – what is the relationship between an infinite all-powerful all-knowing creator God and we His very weak and finite people?

Chapter 8 of Romans tells the child of God that our life is totally overshadowed by the protective hand of a loving heavenly Father. It addresses our greatest sense of need for a basis for protection and safety. Paul wanted believers in Rome, and us, to understand that once we are liberated from the verdict of sin and death, once we are in Christ's love, and once we realize that God is for us; we are at Peace - truly free. In the answers to Paul's three questions in our scripture today – we see our true relationship to a loving and ever-present God is a spirit of Peace.

### Diving Into The Message

- 1) The Bible never tries to convince us that "*God is*". The first verse of Genesis simply states; "*in the beginning God*". How does this belief conflict with the world?
- 2) How does knowing that "*God is for us*" change our view of who or what is "*against us*"?
- 3) A Christian can feel attacked, or charged, from any number of directions (*the world, ourselves, Satan*). But who is the one that can really "*charge*" a Christian? (*hint: No one*) Why?
- 4) Paul frequently uses the legal term "*justified*" to describe a believer's standing before God. What does he mean and why is it important?
- 5) We can be sure that no one can charge us before God because of four facts Paul gives us in our scripture – what are they?  
*Jesus paid the price on the cross, the power He displayed at the tomb, the position He holds in Heaven, and the pleas He makes to the Father - no one can condemn the follower of Christ because we have an Advocate who is interceding for him.*
- 6) But does God really love us forever? Even now? How long will His love endure? But what if? How does God answer these questions? Why is it important?
- 7) How is God's love different from the world's idea of love?
- 8) In Paul's great doxology of praise in Romans 8:37-39, what is he saying about the love of God?
- 9) One of the great promises of God is peace. What is the difference between God's and the world's definition of peace? What is the basis of a believer's peace?