



# ROMANS 8

## WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?

*Chapter 8 of Paul's letter to the Romans includes some inspiring words for when the challenges of life feel insurmountable. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" We must remind ourselves that if we are truly in Christ, we have God at our backs, and he will make all things work together for our good and His good. -JT*

**1** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, **2** because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. **3** For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, **4** in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

**5** Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. **6** The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. **7** The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. **8** Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

**9** You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ,

they do not belong to Christ. **10** But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. **11** And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

**12** Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. **13** For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

**14** For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. **15** The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." **16** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. **17** Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

**18** I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. **19** For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. **20** For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

**22** We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. **23** Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. **24** For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? **25** But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

**26** 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. **27** 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.

**28** 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. **29** 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. **30** And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

**31** What, then, shall we say in response 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, along with him, graciously give us all things? **33** Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. **34** 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. **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **36** As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered 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 convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** 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.

### STUDY NOTES

[BlueLetterBible.org](http://BlueLetterBible.org) Commentary

**There is therefore now no condemnation:** The simple declaration of no condemnation comes to those who are in Christ Jesus. Since God the Father does not condemn Jesus, neither can the Father condemn those who are in Jesus. They are not condemned, they will not be condemned, and they cannot be condemned.



"We perhaps need to consider the flip side: If you are not in Jesus Christ, there is condemnation for you. "It is no pleasant task to us to have to speak of this matter; but who are we that we should ask for pleasant tasks? What God hath witnessed in Scripture is the sum and substance of what the Lord's servants are to testify to the people. If you are not in Christ Jesus, and are walking after the flesh, you have not escaped from condemnation." (Spurgeon)

**Set their minds on the things of the flesh:** Paul gives an easy way for us to determine if we walk in the Spirit or walk in the flesh — to simply see where our mind is **set**. The mind is the strategic battleground where the flesh and the Spirit fight.

**For if you live according to the flesh you will die:** Paul constantly reminds us that living after the flesh ends in death. We need the reminder because we are often deceived into thinking that the flesh offers us life.

Paul didn't say, "As many as go to church, these are the sons of God." He didn't say, "As many as read their Bibles, these are the sons of God." He didn't say, "As many as are patriotic Americans, these are the sons of God." He didn't say, "As many as take communion, these are the sons of God." In this text, the test for sonship is whether or not a person is **led by the Spirit of God**.

**If indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together:** In fact, our sharing in present suffering is a condition of our future glorification. As far as God is concerned, it is all part of the same package of sonship, no matter how much our flesh may want to have the inheritance and the glory without the suffering.

**And we know that all things work together for good:** God's sovereignty and ability to manage every aspect of our lives is demonstrated in the fact that **all things work together for good to those who love God**, though we must face the sufferings of this present time (Romans 8:18). God is able to make even those sufferings work together for our good and His good.

**All things:** God is able to work **all things**, not some things. He works them for good **together**, not in isolation. This promise is for those **who love God** in the Biblical understanding of love, and God manages the affairs of our life because we are **called according to His purpose**.

God's sovereignty and ability to manage every aspect of our lives is demonstrated in the fact that **"all things work together for good to those who love God."**  
Romans 8:28

**For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son:** The eternal chain of God's working is seen in the connection between foreknew, predestined, called, justified, and glorified. God didn't begin a work in the Romans simply to abandon them in the midst of their present suffering.

**If God is for us, who can be against us?** If all we had were the first few chapters of the Book of Romans, some might believe that God was against us. Now that Paul has shown the lengths that God went to save man from His wrath and equip him for victory over sin and death, who can doubt that God is for us?

Most all men say or think that God is for them — terrorists commit horrible crimes thinking that God is for them. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit guards this statement with an **"if,"** so we may know that just because a man thinks God is with him does not make it so. God is only **for us** if we are reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ.

**Who can be against us?** Likewise, despite the suffering Christians face, if God is for them, what does it matter if others are against them? One person plus God makes an unconquerable majority. We certainly can be deceived into thinking that **God is for us** when He actually is not (as do cultists and those like them). Yet it cannot be denied that for those who are in Jesus Christ, God is **for** them!

**Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?** We are secure from every charge against us. If we are declared "not guilty" by the highest Judge, who can bring an additional charge?

**More than conquerors through Him who loved us:** No matter what our circumstances, none of the **sufferings of this present time** can separate us from the love of God. This makes us **conquerors** and more.

**Nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord:** Nothing which appears to be good or nothing which appears to be evil can **separate us from the love of God**.

**BE STRONG & COURAGEOUS.**  
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# WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?



ROMANS 8

#36



**Genesis 50:20**  
what the enemy  
meant for evil...  
God will turn it  
for good.

**ROMANS 8:28 (KJV) AND WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD, TO THEM WHO ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.**

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