**More Than Conquerors – Small Group Notes**

**Romans 8:28-39-** 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 likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 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 this? **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 is he that condemns? 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.

Many people think that God wants them to be continually afraid of him so as to get the best behavior from them that he can.

Where do you think this feeling comes from? Why is it so common?

This is so far from the truth. God wants us to have confidence in our salvation. He wants us to know we are going to heaven, and out of our excitement to bring others with us! Often, for various reasons, we don’t live with this confidence.

Have you ever had a time when God’s love became real for you? What happened?

How would you help someone that would say they don’t feel God’s love?

Notice from where we have been…

1. there is no condemnation in Christ- you are not saved through how good you are, but through what Christ has done
2. the Holy Spirit comes to encourage us and help us… the Holy Spirit even confirms with our Spirit that we are God’s children
3. we are filled with hope and longing for what is coming

**We can have confidence in our salvation… based on 3 things from this passage…**

1. **You have been chosen by God to be his child**
2. **Your eternity… is secure in the eternal hands of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit**
3. **The shocking extent of God’s love for you**
4. **You have been chosen by God to be his child**

**Read Romans 8:28-30-** 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 likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30  And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Verse 28 is often used by people to make it sound like God is responsible for everything that happens. It is often quoted to people in the midst of distress as though their distress is therefore a good thing. How do you think we should be careful with how we use verse 28? How does the context (last week), help us with how we understand verse 28?

Many use verses 28-30 as part of a debate on Calvinism. Does God choose some for salvation, and not choose others for salvation? Should these verses be part of that debate?

Something that we can be sure of here is a far more basic point. God wanted you.

In these verses, what is purpose of our predestination and what is the purpose of our calling?

1. **Your eternity… is secure in the eternal, omnipotent hands of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit**

**Read Romans 8:30-39 – take note of references to the different parts of the trinity – how does each part of the trinity referred to so that we can have confidence in our salvation?**

1. **The shocking extent of God’s love for you**

**The generosity and love of God for us shown in salvation**

**Read Romans 8:32- “**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?”

How do we see God’s generosity and love to us in these verses?

**When you look at the list of things Paul describes that cannot separate us from Christ’s love. What are some fears people may have that these verses might speak to?**

**Read Romans 8:35-39-** 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.

How can we help the confidence of these verses to sink deeper into how we feel that it might drive how we live?

In other words, how can we be more aware that we are chosen by God, that our eternity is secure with each part of the trinity, and that we are loved? (possibly take these one at a time)