



# ROMANS

Strong faith for life



- What we believe about God determines how much we **trust** God.

23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. 24 Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

Romans 3:23-24

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. Romans 8:29-30 (NIV)

- God is committed to **completing** His purposes in the lives of those who love Him.

### Questions that address our doubts:

- Has God failed to keep his **promises**? **NO!**

Well then, has God failed to fulfill his promise to Israel? No, for not all who are born into the nation of Israel are truly members of God’s people! For the Scriptures say, “Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted,” though Abraham had other children, too. This means that Abraham’s physical descendants are not necessarily children of God. Only the children of the promise are considered to be Abraham’s children.

Romans 9:6-8 (NLT)

No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people. Romans 2:29

- Is God **unfair** in how he gives mercy? **NO!**

14 Are we saying, then, that God was unfair? Of course not! 15 For God said to Moses, “I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose.” Romans 9:14-15 (NLT)

16 So it is God who decides to show mercy. We can neither choose it nor work for it. Romans 9:16

17 “For the Scripture tells Pharaoh, I raised you up for this reason so that I may display my power in you and that my name may be proclaimed in the whole earth.” Romans 9:17

- Is God unjust in holding us **accountable**? **NO!**

19 One of you will say to me: “Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?” Romans 9:19 But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also and did not let the people go.(Exodus 8:32)

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.”

Matthew 23:37

- Is God’s choice to save only some **inconsistent** with his goodness? **NO!**

20 But who are you, a mere man, to talk back to God? Will what is formed say to the one who formed it, “Why did you make me like this?” Romans 9:21

31 But the people of Israel, who tried so hard to get right with God by keeping the law, never succeeded. 32 Why not? Because they were trying to get right with God by keeping the law instead of by trusting in him. Romans 9:31-32

### In our doubts, remember:

- We’re never going to **understand everything** about God. “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9
- God’s sovereignty reminds us that **He is God** and **we are not**.
- We have free will, which we will be held **accountable** for.
- Those who choose to love God, will not be **rejected** by God.

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## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

### Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- What does it mean that God is committed to completing His purpose in the lives of those who love Him?
- What we believe about God is really important. What are your struggles with the sovereignty of God?
- What are some questions you struggle with?
- Why is it important that we know God’s promises are reliable?
- Do you feel that God is unfair in how He gives mercy to some and not others? Explain.
- Because God is Sovereign (In control of all things), is He unjust in holding us accountable for our choices? Explain.
- If God saves some and not others, is that inconsistent with His goodness?
- How do you trust God though you don’t understand why He does what He does?
- Why is it important to remember that He is God and we are not?
- What does it mean that we will be held accountable for our free will?
- How do we keep our free will in line with God’s sovereignty?

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Today's Talk..



Can God really be trusted?

Sunday, August 11th, 2024

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