

ROMANS 8:26-39

“Many have used vs 28-30 to endorse a theological position stressing God’s unconditional election, believing God has arbitrarily chosen some and not others for salvation. However, this is to misunderstand Paul’s words in their context. The word “foreknew” represents God’s desire and determination to enter into relationship with us even while we were still sinners (Rom 5:8) and the emphasis of the word “predestined” is upon the goal to which every believer is called; God invites us into relationship so we might be conformed (or formed together) into the image of God’s Son (v. 29; 2 Cor 3:18).

The translation of verse 28 is both difficult and highly debated. The two main translations being: (1) “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (NASB; cf. NLT; NCV; ISV; GNB); (2) “We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose” (NRSV; cf. NIV; NKJV; HCSB). Option 1 focuses on God’s sovereign action, which is biased toward those who love God (or those God has chosen; cf. v. 33). Option 2 is more nuanced and can be seen as emphasizing the perspective of those who have entered into intimate relationship with this God; they make a choice to see their external circumstances through a Kingdom lens. Likewise, the phrase “those who love God” denotes a conscious choice on the part of the follower to be in such a relationship” (Fringer, 2017).

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August 6, 2017

Uncommon Love

Since God will triumph over and prevail against all challenges (Romans 3:1-8), so will all those on His side. God gave His Son to save us, before we knew to appreciate this extraordinary gift of grace.

Is your desire for God based only on what He does for you?

In response to God's love, do you love and worship Him?

Because of your love for God, do you love His Bride, the Church? Are you actively participating in this Body?

In light of God's love, does your heart break for those who don't yet know His love, forgiveness and salvation?

Who is the Lord asking you to love with Him this week?

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