## Gospel Resilience (A Series on Romans 5 - 8)

"5 Questions for a Loving & Enduring Relationship with Jesus" Romans 8:31-39

5 Practices that contribute to a resilient faith (Barna Group Research)

- Developing and experiencing a personal and intimate relationship with \_\_\_\_\_.
- Developing the muscles of cultural discernment.
- Forging meaningful, intergenerational relationships in the church.
- Learning to connect the work we do to our faith.
- Engaging in serving others.

Paul's end \_\_\_\_\_\_ in reassuring his readers of God's love is that we will love and relate to and exult in and worship the One who is for us and loves us with a sacrificial love. Knowing we're so deeply loved is one of the keys to developing and experiencing a personal and intimate relationship with Jesus that endures.

## 5 Questions for a Loving & Enduring Relationship with Jesus

1. What, then, shall we say in \_\_\_\_\_\_ to these things? (Romans 8:31a)

"[These verses are] full of a sustained excitement, like a symphony entering its final moments and getting faster and faster towards the end, with phrases taken from earlier parts of the music being whirled around in triumph. ...Learn to dance and sing for joy to celebrate the victory of God. The end of Romans 8 deserves to be written in letters of fire on the living tablets of our hearts." (N.T. Wright)

Paul is taking "a \_\_\_\_\_\_ to think," and he's inviting us to do the same.

2. If God is for \_\_\_\_\_, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31b)

This doesn't mean you get your way; it means God gets his way for your \_\_\_\_\_

What comes into your \_\_\_\_\_\_ when you think about what God thinks about you?

5. Read Psalm 44. Psalms of complaint. like this one, were part of the worship liturgy and prayers of Israel. How could Psalms of complaint inform our personal and corporate worship today?

6. How can reflecting on God's love for you grow your love for him?

3. He who did not \_\_\_\_\_\_ his own Son, but gave him up for us all-how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32)

## Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

4. Who will bring a \_\_\_\_\_\_ against those whom God has chosen and who is the one who condemns? (Romans 8:33-34)

'Too many church people think of the church as club of good people telling other people how to live instead seeing the church as a league of the guilty.'

5. Who shall \_\_\_\_\_\_ us from the love of Christ? (Romans 8:35-39)

Psalm 44: <sup>22</sup> Yet for your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. <sup>23</sup> Awake, Lord! Why do you sleep?

Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever.

<sup>24</sup> Why do you hide your face and forget our misery and oppression?

Paul is saying, 'Your suffering doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ God doesn't love you or that he has abandoned you.'

2. Read Romans 8:18-39. How does what Paul says in Romans 8:31-39 relate to what he says in Romans 8:18-30?

3. What are some of the ways we can misunderstand and diminish the impact of God being for us?