

THE BIG IDEA: God is for us. Period.

The Take-Off

He is alive!!!! Happy Resurrection Day!

This is a day to be celebrated, because it literally changed the world!

As we'll see today, when Paul told the Ephesian believers to STAND in **Ephesians 6:13**, the confidence that he had in what God was doing came from what God had already done at the cross and in the tomb.

We stand because He rose!

We **stand IN obedience** because He was obedient to the cross.

We **stand UP in prayer** because He has been exalted to the highest place.

We **stand WITH each other in unity** because His work on the cross destroyed the things that divide us.

We **stand OUT in holiness** because He has given us a new identity - called out and set us apart.

We **stand DOWN in service** because He came not to be served, but to serve.

And now, we wrap it all up by learning that we **stand FOR people** because God is FOR people.

How do we know? The cross is the proof.

I know that's hard for some of us to wrap our brains around - but that's not God's fault. His message has been poorly communicated by the people who carry it.

In fact, many of us believe that God is actually AGAINST us.

But that's because the church has often been guilty of standing against things instead of for people.

As a result, God's gotten some bad PR, the same way United has over the last week.

[MEDIA - New United Airline Slogans]

Now, here's the thing. None of those are actually United slogans, but they reflect the perception about United because of what happened last week when they dragged a passenger off the plane.

It's hard to do that and still have people believe that you're the friendly skies.

Unfortunately, Christians have stood for so long against things that now many feel that God is against them.

Honestly, that's why many people only attend church twice a year: they're convinced that God's mad at them.

But I love the way a church in Atlanta put it: **God's not in a bad mood.**

Today, I want to help you see one life-changing truth: God is for us. Period.

When we get that - really get that - it will transform the cross.

We'll no longer see it as a sign of condemnation, but of invitation.

We'll no longer see it as a punishment of us, but as a payment for us.

God loves people, and it was that love that motivated Him to bridge the gap our sin had created. (see **John 3:16**)

If He is for people, we are for people.

So, today we have one point, one Big Idea, and it is this: **God is for us. Period.**

Because that is true, here are 2 anchors that can hold us based on **Romans 8:31-39**.

If God is for us (and He is!!!), then.....

1. **Grave stones become rolling stones**

- a. We all know that the stone in front of Jesus' tomb was rolled away, but sometimes we miss the fact that GOD IS STILL ROLLING STONES AWAY!
- b. While we don't have the time to do an in-depth study on Romans 8 (it would be a great chapter for you to read this week!), we at least need to understand that it is all about what has been done for us!
 - We've been made free
 - We've been made alive
 - We've been adopted by God
 - We're led by God, prayed for by God, called by God, being conformed to the image of God
- c. What a list!! And when we pick it up in **Romans 8:31**, Paul asks the obvious question: "So what? What can we say in response to such a list of wonderful works of God on our behalf?"
- d. If God is for us - if all of this is true (and it is) - then what does it mean for us?
- e. It means that grave stones still become rolling stones, and Paul mentions 3 stones that many of us struggle with:
 - **v. 31** / OPPOSITION / "Who can be against us?"

- v. 33 / ACCUSATION / “Who can bring a charge against us?”
- v. 35 / SEPARATION / “Who can separate us?”
- f. Do you know why we can’t be opposed, accused or separated?
- g. Because all of that happened to Jesus at the cross FOR us!!!
 - He was OPPOSED by Satan
 - He was ACCUSE by men
 - He was SEPARATED from God
- h. Jesus has BLOWN AWAY those grave stones!
- i. And the greatest one of all - God’s wrath against sin - was removed by Jesus, too.
- j. **Isaiah 53:6** / all the punishment for our sin was placed on Him
- k. Tetalestai / paid in full / there is nothing left to pay!
- l. When we really believe that Jesus moved all those stones for us, it fuels our belief in another anchor.
- m. If God is FOR us (and He is), then.....

2. God’s greatest sacrifice proves that He won’t run from our greatest struggles

- a. Don’t miss this: the cross costs God dearly - it cost Him all to save us all
- b. **Verse 32** asks the obvious: if God was willing to do THAT, how much more will He do EVERYTHING ELSE?
- c. It is the argument from greater to lesser - if He did the greater, He will do the lesser
- d. Do you feel the confidence in that statement?
- e. At the cross we see a God Who was willing to go all the way, and because He went all the way, we know that He will take care of us all along the way!
- f. This is why Paul finished out the chapter with the resounding confidence of **verses 37-39**
 - We more than conquerors IN all these things / no matter what we face, it cannot erase the victory
 - We stand convinced - Greek means “to make friends with” - that God is FOR us
- g. Need a bit more convincing? Check out this clip from John Piper.
- h. **[Video/ For Us]**

The Landing

The enemy would love nothing more than to convince us that God is against us, and that the cross and resurrection have no bearing on us today

He wants to give God bad PR, to convince the world that what God says and what God does aren’t the same

But the cross is the greatest proof of the greatest love we’ve seen, and, like Paul, we can know, be at peace with, be persuaded of that fact that **GOD IS FOR US. PERIOD.**

Let’s pray.