
Questioning God's Nature
A Study of the Book of Romans
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Key Truth: We prove our unrighteousness when we question God's righteous nature.

As with the previous verses, Paul, in his extended discussion on the depravity of man, calling out the Jews specifically, anticipates objections. The first objection (2:25-29) relates to circumcision. In chapter 3, Paul anticipates more push-back. But the kinds of questions they may be asking attack God's righteous nature by questioning his integrity and covenant love. Since, in these verses, Paul addresses unbelievers who accuse God of unrighteousness, our task is not to doubt our salvation. Rather, our task, in studying these characteristics of unrighteous man is to look for areas in our own lives where we may have slipped into some of the same attitudes or habits, and then through the forgiving grace of God, live in joyful repentance.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 3:1-8** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled "**Questioning God's Nature.**"

DIG IN

1. Questioning the Loyalty of God. (Romans 3:1-2)

What are the "oracles" (utterances) of God (v. 2)? In what way would this be an advantage to the Jews?

Why would the Jews question God's loyalty even though they had his trustworthy Word? Do we do that today? If so, in what ways?

2. Questioning the Faithfulness of God. (Romans 3:3-4)

In verses 3-4, Paul states categorically that the unfaithfulness of the Jews does not nullify the faithfulness of God. Why is this so?

In what ways does the disobedience of a child or an employee reflect poorly on the parent or employer? Why is this not the case with God?

3. Questioning the Justice of God. (Romans 3:5-6)

In what ways does our unrighteousness reveal in an even greater way the righteousness of God?

Paul states in verse 5-6 that even though our unrighteousness highlights his righteousness, God is not unrighteous to inflict wrath on us. Why?

What would be one of the problems with God becoming "unrighteous" (see v. 6)?

4. Questioning the Glory of God. (Romans 3:7-8)

Why is it wrong to do evil so that good may come (see v. 8)? Why is it wrong to think and act this way?

Why might cultivating a spirit of thankfulness in our hearts be a way to combat our tendency to question God's righteous nature?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?