

DISCUSSION: [Romans 8:28-30](#)

(Discuss the question cluster below - as much or as little as works for your group)

Feel free to break off into smaller groups if it helps you share more personally

We're starting a sermon series called, "The Life of the Church." In it we'll focus on what it means to be the church through Henri Nouwen's picture of the Christian life as being like the Lord's Supper or "Communion": Chosen, Broken, Blessed, Given. We'll spend two weeks on each concept (Chosen, Broken, Blessed, Given) of that picture to help us know what it means to be the church and what the church is called to do in our world.

- I. This week, our passage (Romans 8:28-30) helped us start to understand the concept of the church being *chosen* by God. To get at that concept, the sermon focused on three questions: 1) What is it to be chosen? (v.28-29); 2) How does Jesus show us how we're chosen?; and 3) When were we chosen like this? (v.29-30). Let's discuss how these things impact our lives.
 - A. What connected with you from the sermon or from the passage?
 - B. Is it hard to think of yourself as chosen (i.e., seen as "unique, special and precious") by God? Or in what situations do you find it hard to believe you are chosen?
 1. *What's a word you could use to describe how it would feel to really believe/know that? (for example - "it would feel 'freeing,' 'safe,' 'redemptive,'" etc.)*
 - C. What did you think about the concept that God's choice of you is what make his you worth choosing — that, like in Genesis, his Word (here making you special, precious) has power to make things come to be that weren't before?
 1. *What's a frequent way you try to make yourself worthy of God's choosing instead of letting his decision to choose you be enough to say that you belong?*
 - D. Is it difficult to feel like you can celebrate that Jesus would chose to die for you and call you his own before you ever did anything right or wrong?
 1. *What gets in the way of feeling like you can celebrate and be grateful that God would love you like that?*
 2. *What is a small way you might feel comfortable celebrating and being grateful?*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- New Adult Ed class: The world needs Hope. The Church needs Hope. You need Hope. NT Wright's exciting book on the resurrection and future hope — *Surprised by Hope* — is being offered in a 6-week video series about the sure hope of the resurrection. Come and be encouraged. Why not bring a friend who needs hope? This will be the last class for the spring before summer break. Class starts on May 7th. Register by April 30th for a free study guide at ctkcambridge.org/adulteducation.