



Sermon Discussion Guide

January 18, 2026 | Romans 9:19-29 | Jerrod

SUMMARY

Big Idea: God sovereignly shows mercy while people stumble through unbelief, not injustice. In 9:19-29, Paul tackles one of the most difficult objections to God's sovereignty: if God is truly in control of all things and all people, does that make us puppets, and how then can he still hold people accountable? Paul's answer is direct, as he positions us rightly before God before highlighting the Lord's justice and motive to highlight his power and mercy. This passage, like all of Scripture, can either harden us in unbelief and lead us to fashion a more palatable god in our own liking, or it can humble us and strengthen our faith in a sovereign God who has chosen to show mercy. (the chart from the sermon is on pg 2)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (A*) = A MORE APPLICATION-ORIENTED QUESTION)

Intro

Do you enjoy designing, creating, or building things?
Like what? (woodworking, cooking, crocheting, 3D printing?)
Why do you enjoy it?

Read Romans 9:19

1. Flowing out of the "justice" question and answer from last week (9:14-18), what rebuttal does Paul anticipate here in verse 19? How would you articulate this question in your own words?

Read Romans 9:20-21

2. How does Paul begin his answer to the question of verse 19?
 - a. How do verses 20-21 establish the right relational dynamics between us and God?
 - b. (A*) What effect does this have on you?
 - c. (A*) When are you tempted, or when do you feel like you have forgotten who God is and who you are?
 - d. (A*) Does this mean we should never ask questions? What does it mean?

Read Romans 9:22-24

3. What explanation or application does Paul provide to show how it is, or in what way, God is the potter and we are the clay?
 - a. How do these verses address the question of God's justice?
 - b. How do these verses address the question of God's word not failing? (9:6)

Read Romans 9:25-29

4. Why does Paul quote from the OT here? What do these verses communicate?
5. (A*) How do these verses (19-29) shape your understanding of who God is?
6. (A*) What in your life are you trying to shoulder or figure out by your own strength?
7. (A*) What would it look like for you to lean on and trust in the Lord in that circumstance?

KINGDOM IMPACT - MULTIPLY

1. **Pray, Think, and Act.** Share any developments and updates in the areas below:
 - a. **Reach** - That God would use you to lead 1 person to faith in Christ
 - b. **Belong** - to multiply opportunities for others to be brought into community
 - c. **Serve** - to begin serving, invite others into serving, or multiplying serving efforts by meeting needs or blessing neighbors or ministry partners together as a group
 - d. **Gather** - to multiply the church (planting, revitalization, helping other churches)

Chart from Sermon

	Bible	World
Sovereignty	God sovereignly ordains all things to come to pass (Is 46:9-10; Eph 1:11)	God is limited by human freedom, natural processes, or relational openness; God only has influence, not control over evil
Origin of Evil	Evil enters through the Fall (Angelic & Human) because of moral rebellion that has real consequences. (Gen 3; Rom 5)	Evil is due to broken systems, ignorance, trauma, and evolutionary rebellion
Purpose of Evil	Evil exists to show God's justice, mercy, grace, and redemptive power. (Rom 9:22-23; Gen 50:20)	Evil has no purpose
Future of Evil	Evil fully and finally will be dealt with. The Cross and the 2 nd coming of Jesus are God's means to finish evil. (Col 2:13-15; Rev 21-22)	Judgment is symbolic and what we really need is moral and social progress