

The General Issue – VS1-5

What is the issue Paul is addressing when he makes the statement in **VS6: But it is not as though the word of God has failed.**

Genesis 12 records how God selected one man, a pagan gentile, through whom He would create a new “race,” a people group through whom the Messiah would come. His name is ABRAHAM. As the promise unfolded Abraham’s descendants believed that since they were “God’s chosen people,” they were collectively “God’s children” as well.

After Paul’s conversion to Christ, he came to understand no one is a “Child of God” by physical heritage. All peoples, must repent of sin and believe in Jesus The Christ to become “Children of God”. Paul came to understand that for anyone Jew, or Gentile, to repent and believe requires an act of God on their behalf to enable repentance and faith. **Eph. 2:8-9; 2 Tim. 2:25**

This caused Paul to realize that many of his fellow Israelites would not receive the gift of repentance and faith and were not now, nor would they be God’s children.

Truth Point #1: While it is popular for our culture to claim all people as “God’s Children,” this is absolutely not true. All humanity is God’s _____. Becoming His child requires a **Holy Spirit generated** _____ to repentance and faith, and a **Holy Spirit generated faith-filled** _____ from sinners. **John 6:44; Ephesians 2:8-9:**

Since Israel believed they were already God’s children through Abraham, and subjects of the promise, Paul’s teaching created a seeming contradiction. If what Paul preached is true, and if what the Israelites believe about themselves is true, **then it must mean that God’s promise to Israel, through Abraham, has failed!**

Sovereign Election – VS 6-13

Paul’s answer is that God had not failed, and He is not unfaithful! He has, and is fulfilling the promises made to those who were the **objects of that**

promise. Paul makes clear that being in Abraham's bloodline **does not make one an object of God's promise.** VS6-7 No doubt this was a shock to the Jewish mind, but it shouldn't have been, because the reality of Paul's statement was always right in front of them.

Identity: Children of The Promise – VS 6-9

Who was Abraham's 1st offspring? **Ismael.** He was the first born son of Abraham, yet he was NOT the child of promise. See Genesis 21:12 God's promise was not just a son, but a son through Abraham's barren wife Sara.

Truth Point #2: Abraham's story is an example of God's program of _____ in play. God **elected Abraham** to be the father of a new nation, and He **elected Isaac** to be the offspring of Abraham through which that promise would move forward.

Although Abraham's first and rightful heir according to human law and tradition, Ismael was not God's choice among Abraham's offspring to be his heir, nor through which the new nation and Messiah would come.

BTW: Genesis 25 records that after Sara died, Abraham remarried. **He had 6 more sons!**

Truth Point #3: Abraham had 8 sons, all legitimate, all of his seed. Yet God's promise was _____ and _____. God elected Isaac, born through Sara, as the son of promise. Romans 9:9; Genesis 18:10,14

Question: Did God have the right to select Abraham as His instrument to bring forth a new nation? Was He unjust to all of the other men of His creation, for bypassing them to select Abraham?

Question: Did God have the right to select Isaac as the one son of Abraham through whom the promise would move forward? Was He unjust to Isaac's 7 brothers for bypassing them to select Isaac?

God was **NOT unfaithful in His promise** to Abraham, nor to his physical offspring. God never promised to use all of Abraham's children. God elected Isaac to be the one through whom the promise would continue.

Divine Purpose: Calling not Works – VS10-12

Paul offers **Isaac's** sons **Esau**, and **Jacob** as examples. According to the law and customs of the day the first born would be the rightful heir, the one who inherits and carry's forward the families name and work. However, God told Rebekah that the older would serve the younger, meaning God was selecting **Jacob** over **Esau** concerning the Abrahamic Covenant.

Question: Why did God go against human custom and award 1st born status to the 2nd born? What had **Esau** done to be displaced like this?

Paul makes it very clear that God's election of **Jacob** over **Esau** had nothing to do with either **Jacob** or **Esau**. This **election** was made before they were born, before either could do anything right or wrong. What if anything does this tell us about God?

Truth Point #4: God is _____ to no one. He owes no one any _____. God is **totally free** to choose one person over another based on His _____ alone.

We like to talk about **human "free-will"**. But the fact remains that the only "being" that has **absolute free-will** is God Himself.

If you think about it, there are so many things in life that our "will" is bound to, something that prevents us from seeing our "will" come to pass.

But God is totally free! There are no restrictions on Him!

Truth Point #5: The only restriction that binds God's will is that He cannot act in a manner that contradicts His _____ and _____.

God cannot lie, envy, act immorally, contradict Himself, **He cannot condemn the innocent**. That right there is an issue we must address.

That Troubling Statement- VS13

Paul wraps up his illustration of God's choice of **Jacob** over **Esau** with a quotation from **Malachi 1:2-3**... **Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.**

We always ask the wrong question regarding this statement. We want to know why God hated Esau. The right question is why did God love Jacob?

Speaking of God's **nature** and **character** I said that He cannot condemn the innocent. **But there are no innocent among us.** We like to think of ourselves as good people, but the standard we use to judge goodness is a false standard. We compare ourselves to the worst among us, and find comfort in the fact that we are not as bad as they.

The question isn't why God would hate someone, *because God's hates sin and all of us by birth and action are sinners*, **why would He love anyone?** Both **Jacob** and **Esau** committed grievous sins worthy of eternal condemnation, yet God elected to use **Jacob**

Truth Point #6: Why God elected Jacob over Esau, we cannot say. We can be certain however, that **God is free** to _____ on any sinner He chooses. **God is free** to leave any sinner to the _____ of their sin.

Wrap Up

God did not fail Israel, because God's promise was not made on the bases of Abraham's bloodline, but rather on The Blood of The Messiah. Israel's heritage in Abraham was never God's plan to make sinners part of His family. It has always been a matter of FAITH.

If you are God's child it is due to His grace being poured out on you and not because of anything you did to earn or deserve it. If you are not God's the only way you can enter His Family and Kingdom is by turning from sin and embracing Jesus as your Savior and Lord.

The Mission Church exists to help sinners find Christ and saints grow in Christ. Let's get together and talk about your connection with Jesus.