

Discussion Guide for True Paradox

1. Read John 19:5-12 and review the sermon outline.

What parts of Sunday's lesson did you find helpful, enlightening, unclear or troubling?

2. Truth: In the death of Christ, God was working out His perfect plan and, at the same time, wicked people were working out their evil plan. God deserves praise for Jesus' death but Jesus' killers deserve condemnation for Jesus' death. The sovereignty of God and the culpability of the wicked is one of the many true paradoxes of Scripture.

Read Matthew 10:34–39

What are some of the true paradoxes in this passage?

What are some tensions created by this teaching?

What profound truths is Jesus communicating through these paradoxes?

In the sermon, we mentioned “the last will be first, and the first last.” (Matt. 20:16) and “when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Cor. 12:10).

How have these two paradoxes personally transformed you?

What are some of your favorite paradoxes in Scripture?

Read Romans 11:25–36

What is the paradox involving God's sovereignty and human responsibility in 11:24-33?

What are some of the tensions it creates in your mind?

Where does this paradox lead Paul in 11:33-36?

How do the paradoxes of Scripture elevate God to His proper place of honor and put us in our proper place of humility?