

Title: Cocky Christian - Romans 11 1-10

Read:

¹¹⁻¹²The next question is, "Are they down for the count? Are they out of this for good?" And the answer is a clear-cut No. Ironically when they walked out, they left the door open and the outsiders walked in. But the next thing you know, the Jews were starting to wonder if perhaps they had walked out on a good thing. Now, if their leaving triggered this worldwide coming of non-Jewish outsiders to God's kingdom, just imagine the effect of their coming back! What a homecoming! ¹³⁻¹⁵But I don't want to go on about them. It's you, the outsiders, that I'm concerned with now. Because my personal assignment is focused on the so-called outsiders, I make as much of this as I can when I'm among my Israelite kin, the so-called *insiders*, hoping they'll realize what they're missing and want to get in on what God is doing. If their falling out initiated this worldwide coming together, their recovery is going to set off something even better: mass homecoming! If the first thing the Jews did, even though it was wrong for them, turned out for your good, just think what's going to happen when they get it right! ¹⁶⁻¹⁸Behind and underneath all this there is a holy, God-planted, God-tended root. If the primary root of the tree is holy, there's bound to be some holy fruit. Some of the tree's branches were pruned and you wild olive shoots were grafted in. Yet the fact that you are now fed by that rich and holy root gives you no cause to crow over the pruned branches. Remember, you aren't feeding the root; the root is feeding you. ¹⁹⁻²⁰It's certainly possible to say, "Other branches were pruned so that I could be grafted in!" Well and good. But they were pruned because they were deadwood, no longer connected by belief and commitment to the root. The only reason you're on the tree is because your graft "took" when you believed, and because you're connected to that belief-nurturing root. So don't get cocky and strut your branch. Be humbly mindful of the root that keeps you lithe and green. ²¹⁻²²If God didn't think twice about taking pruning shears to the natural branches, why would he hesitate over you? He wouldn't give it a second thought. Make sure you stay alert to these qualities of gentle kindness and ruthless severity that exist side by side in God—ruthless with the deadwood, gentle with the grafted shoot. But don't presume on this gentleness. The moment you become deadwood, you're out of there. ²³⁻²⁴And don't get to feeling superior to those pruned branches down on the ground. If they don't persist in remaining deadwood, they could very well get grafted back in. God can do that. He can perform miracle grafts. Why, if he could graft you—branches cut from a tree out in the wild—into an orchard tree, he certainly isn't going to have any trouble grafting branches back into the tree they grew from in the first place. Just be glad you're in the tree, and hope for the best for the others.

Think:

All wars are started by religion, is one of the cries you will hear many people who aren't Christian state as being a reason why God doesn't exist. That is what the writer of this passage is warning us against getting up ourselves. He is saying hey just because you know God don't be so cocky. I don't know about you, but when ever I feel I know a subject well, I soon get cocky about it. I'm strutting my stuff. "OK I know all there is to know about football, go on ask me any question you want." Pretty soon I'm making anyone who doesn't know anything about football feel pretty stupid. If they know everything about athletics, that's not good enough, after all in my humble opinion football is the best game in the world. If we are not careful we can be the same about God. Strutting around saying things like: "OK I know all there is to know about God, go on ask me any question you want." They may think they know a little about Jesus, but that's not good enough for me. That is hardly going to show anyone the love that Jesus wants us to show. No the Bibles pretty clear, don't get cocky, Jesus is as much for those people you look down upon as he is for you. Every time you look at someone and think you are better then them, you are looking at someone who Jesus thought was good enough to die for.

Pray:

Father please forgive me for every time that I have looked down at someone who you love. Lord please give me the same view that your eyes give you, when that happens in the future. Amen.

Action:

Do you ever have a different view on some of these passages we look at together? You can go to Aftershock.org.uk and leave you own comments on each and everyone of these devs we look at together. Bye for now.