

Romans 8: 31-38 (ESV) – God’s Boundless Love

Main point: Nothing can separate us from God’s love.

Open with a short prayer, inviting God to teach us.

Background: Just before this section, the apostle Paul has talked about our inheritance as God’s children, that God works all things together for good for those who are his, and he has adopted us into his family.

Focus of the study:

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Questions:

1. *v. 31: What is Paul’s main point right up front?*
 - a. “If God is for us, who can be against us?” What’s the answer? Who *can* be against us?
 - b. *How does Paul make this argument?*
 - i. God gave his only Son for us – so why would he withhold any good thing?
 - ii. For example, let’s say you donated a kidney to a friend of yours who really needed it. You have two, so having only one won’t hurt you in any way, and you do it gladly, and it all goes well; your friend lives. If that friend came to you a year later and said, “hey, could I have an apple from your apple tree” – would you say, “no way! you can’t have one!” That would be crazy!
2. *God knows that we need help – and what did he do?*
 - a. Sent Jesus to die – and to rise – for us
 - b. *Was this something we earned or made possible?* No – a free gift, out of LOVE
3. Then Paul starts into this litany of things that cannot separate us from the love of Christ (*ask what each of these words mean to people*):
 - a. tribulation / trouble
 - b. distress

- c. persecution
 - d. famine
 - e. nakedness
 - f. danger
 - g. sword
4. *What do all of those have in common?*
 - a. They are dangerous! They can and do affect our mortal bodies
 - i. “we are being killed all the day long”
 5. *But then Paul says, even though our bodies do die, we are what?*
 - a. “more than conquerors”
 6. *I wonder how that works?? What is Paul convinced cannot drive a wedge between us and God?*
 - a. death or life
 - b. angels or rulers
 - c. things present or things to come
 - d. powers
 - e. height or depth
 - f. *nor anything else in all creation* – what does that encompass? EVERYTHING
 7. *And he says none of these things will be able to do what?*
 - a. separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus
 8. Wow ... what kind of love is that?? You are so loved by God that nothing, nothing, nothing can change that or separate you from that. Nothing you do ... nothing anyone else does ... nothing in your past or future ... even things you don’t know about and can’t see ... when you cling to Christ, you are safe in God’s love, which is bigger than anything.
 9. Ask for prayer requests for today.
 10. Close in prayer, naming people and needs listed.
 11. End with a song, e.g., first verse of Amazing Grace