

Romans 8: 31-39 (NIV) – 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 (St. Paul) has talked about our inheritance as God’s children, that God works all things together for good for those who belong to him, and God has adopted us into his family.

Focus of the study:

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is 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? What’s the first thing that Paul points out that God has done for us?*
 - 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 knew and knows that we need help – so what did God do?*
 - a. Sent Jesus to die – and to rise – for us, making it possible for us to be adopted into God’s family.
 - b. *Was this something we earned or made possible?*
 - i. No – a free gift, out of LOVE
3. v. 35: Then Paul starts into this list of things that cannot separate us from the love of Christ (*ask what each of these words mean to people*):
 - a. trouble
 - b. hardship
 - c. persecution

- d. famine
 - e. nakedness
 - f. danger
 - g. sword
4. *What do all of those things have in common?*
 - a. They are dangerous! They can and do affect our mortal bodies
 - i. v. 36: “we face death all day long”
 5. *v. 37: But then Paul says, even though our bodies do die, we are what?*
 - a. “more than conquerors”
 6. *I wonder how that works?? How are we “conquerors” over death?*
 - a. v. 38: Because nothing cannot drive a wedge between us and God. Paul is convinced of this! How sure do you feel when you’re convinced of something?
 7. *What does Paul list as things that have no power to separate us from God? (v. 38-39)*
 - a. death or life
 - b. angels or demons
 - c. present or future
 - d. powers
 - e. height or depth
 - f. nor anything else in all creation – what does that encompass? EVERYTHING
 8. *v. 39: And Paul says none of these things will be able to do what?*
 - a. separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus
 9. *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.*
- Ask for prayer requests for today.
 - Close in prayer, naming people and needs listed.
 - End with a song, e.g., first verse of Amazing Grace

Romans 8: 31-39

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

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