

No Separation

Love Like Jesus, Message #4, Romans 8:31-39

INTRODUCTION

Join me in Romans chapter 8.

One writer (Constable, *Constable's Notes on the Bible*) presents an outline for the book of Romans that I think represents the epistle well.

Following the introduction, Romans 1:18-3:20 discusses the need for God's righteousness. It describes the fallen nature of man, which leaves us all guilty before God.

Romans 3:21-5:21 presents the imputation of God's righteousness. God provides justification through His Son, made available to each person through faith.

Romans 6-8 demonstrates the impartation of God's righteousness that affects our relationships to sin, the Law, and God Himself. God's righteousness provides us power over sin, a plea before the Law, and a position before God.

Then, Romans 9-11 identifies the vindication of God's righteousness. This portion of Romans is addressed explicitly to Israel.

Finally, Romans 12:1-15:13 explains the practice of God's righteousness. Paul shows what it looks like to live out practically what God has produced positionally.

Near the middle of the letter, where Paul demonstrates the impartation of God's righteousness that affects our relationship with Him and provides our position before Him, sits the passage we consider now. Thomas Constable calls this passage "our eternal security" (Constable, *Constable's Notes on the Bible*, p. 10). The passage declares unequivocally that we cannot now or ever be separated from God's love. *No Separation* describes the passage's theme and the message's title.

Follow along as I read Romans 8:31-39.

BIBLE

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is

God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:31-39 KJV

<https://bible.com/bible/1/rom.8.31-39.KJV>

INTRODUCTION

Through this point in Romans, Paul demonstrated the greatness of man’s depravity and the greatness of God’s salvation. Here, Paul showed that nothing could separate those in Christ from God’s love.

What does that mean for you today?

Nothing can separate you from God’s love if you are in Christ. Cling to the reality of His love for you! We will look at how Paul defines nothing, but you should immediately recognize that you are secure in God’s love.

If you are not in Christ, believe in Him as your Savior to enter and experience the full benefits of God’s love for you. Does God love you? Yes, He does. So much that He sent His only begotten Son to die in your place; however, you cannot know God’s love as one of His children and certainly cannot know God’s love in eternity without being in Christ. Paul says, “If God be for us...” How do I know if God is for me? You must be His and can only be His through faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. The darkest reality of eternity separated from God is eternity separated from His love. You will have the memory of His love but no experience of it whatsoever any longer in eternity. While I will address believers in the message, I want to give you the opportunity to believe in Christ. If you have never trusted Christ for the forgiveness of sins and salvation, call out to Him, believing He died for your sin and rose again to life by His power. He will save you.

To you who are children of God and followers of Christ: What can I know because of God’s love?

As we study Romans 8:31-39, let the message of no separation from God’s love for you encourage you though you face adversaries, accusations, affliction, and anything else.

1. GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU DOES NOT CHANGE DESPITE ADVERSARIES (VV. 31-32).

EXPLANATION

Some people seem born to be contentious. Have you interacted with someone like that? No matter what you say, they have to disagree. No matter what you do, it isn't the right thing.

That's exactly what our adversary does. He's a liar and deceiver, always trying to convince you that you don't make the cut.

When you are a child of God and a follower of Jesus, there will always be people who are "against" you. Adversaries produce adversity. As a child of God and follower of Jesus, you will encounter adversaries and experience the hardship they make.

Those encounters and experiences can leave us wondering, "Does God love me?" Sometimes, this thought is produced by the devil feeding us his lies, like, "God doesn't love you because He can't love you." You may hear voices that say, "God can't love you," but you never have and will never hear God's voice say, "I don't love you."

How can I know that?

God gave you Jesus!

"Spared" in the text means to be chary of, that is, (subjectively) to abstain or (objectively) to treat leniently. The idea is that God was not hesitant or reluctant to give His Son so we could be delivered. Think of that! God did not hesitate to give us His very best! What wondrous love is this! If God would do that, there is nothing He would withhold from us, and He would never withdraw what He has already given. "Freely give" comes from the Greek word *charizomai*, whose root word is *charis*, the main word translated as grace. This reminds us of God's grace through which He always interacts with us. We are constantly receiving grace.

APPLICATION

Whatever adversaries, especially the adversary, use to convince you that God does not and cannot love cannot separate you from God's love.

Remember, we are defining His love so that we can learn better to demonstrate His love. He did not spare Jesus. He was not hesitant to give His best for us.

Do you hesitate to give your best to Him while professing love for Him?

To love like Jesus, as God loves, is not to hesitate to give your best, not just to and for Him, but to and for others. You were the adversary of God before coming to Christ. Yet, He loved you and gave Himself for you. To love like Him is to do that for others, including your adversaries. Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit here is so needed.

In contrast, “spared” sometimes appears in warnings (see Rom. 11:21 & 2 Pet. 2:4-5). Do not neglect or reject Him, or He will not hesitate to bring judgment (for Christ rejectors).

2. GOD’S LOVE FOR YOU DOES NOT CHANGE DESPITE ACCUSATION (VV. 33-34).

EXPLANATION

“Shall lay anything to the charge” means to call in (as a debt or demand), that is, bring to account (charge, criminate, etc.). It’s a legal term, an accusation of a crime. The Bible identifies Satan as the accuser of believers.

BIBLE

“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”

Revelation 12:10 KJV

<https://bible.com/bible/1/rev.12.10.KJV>

EXPLANATION

Here’s what you need to understand. When Satan speaks to you as your adversary, he tells lies. When Satan speaks to God as your accuser, he speaks the truth. Yes, Satan will remind you of what you’ve done, but then he will work to convince you of a lie. When he speaks to God, he tells God the truth of what you’ve done and seeks to move God to withdraw his love from you.

Though Satan speaks the truth to God to move Him to do this, he cannot succeed. His accusations, as accurate and as severe as they may be, will not force God to withdraw His love from you.

How can I know that?

Paul provides three reasons.

First, God chose to set His love on you. He chose you!

Second, God is the justifier. The One Who declared you righteous sits as the Judge.

ILLUSTRATION

Are you familiar with the process called double jeopardy? In jurisprudence, when an accused person is acquitted of the crime they are accused of, they can never be tried again for that crime.

EXPLANATION

Similarly, when you come to God through faith in Christ, He justifies you. That is, He declares you righteous. Once you are declared righteous by God, He will not reassess and declare you guilty.

God set His love on you, God is the justifier, and third the crucified and risen Jesus is the Advocate. If that were insufficient, Jesus, Who died in your place, stands at the right side of the throne pleading your case. In evidence, He submits not your goodness, nor does He deny your badness. He presents His righteousness and His blood. He pleads His substitutionary death and justifying resurrection.

The accusations Satan can truthfully level against you will not separate you from God's love, no matter how severe the accusations are.

ILLUSTRATION

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin
Because the sinless Saviour died
My sinful soul is counted free

For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there the risen Lamb
My perfect spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I Am
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself I cannot die
My soul is purchased with His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Saviour and my God

3. GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU DOES NOT CHANGE DESPITE AFFLICTION (VV. 35-37).

EXPLANATION

Troubles and pressures sometimes leave us feeling like God's love has failed, been withdrawn, or is distant.

How do we know God's love does not change despite those afflictions?

Paul uses an emphatic verb. The word translated "separate" means to place room between, that is, part; reflexively to go away. It identifies the idea that nothing can come between you and Jesus.

ILLUSTRATION

Stephanie and I have often used the hymn title, "Nothing Between," as a motif for our relationship. Sometimes we use it in jest, and sometimes we use it in seriousness.

In human relationships, sometimes things come between people. The closest human relationships can be stretched and sadly severed because of affliction.

EXPLANATION

Listen to Paul's statement again. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" Then, the following statement mentions not people but problems. Neither people nor problems can come between Jesus and you! That may happen in human relationships, but it will never happen in your Jesus relationship.

How do we know?

Paul appeals to God's word, proclaiming that through all these, including death, God has made us more than conquerors through Jesus, Who loved us.

4. GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU DOES NOT CHANGE DESPITE ANYTHING ELSE (VV. 38-39).

EXPLANATION

We are getting long, so let's wrap this up. If you've thought of something that could be more severe than what Paul has already mentioned, he says that anything else we could discuss cannot separate you from God's love. That's it! "Shall be able" means to be able or possible. No power, no problem, no possibility exists that can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus! Go ahead. Try to think of something and then read these verses. You will conclude *No Separation*.

CONCLUSION

In relationships, we tend to fear the other person will stop loving us. Something may happen between us, the other person may choose another path, or they may discover something about us that leads them to stop loving us. In some sense, we all feel unlovely and unlovable. Often, we carry that tendency into our relationship with God. It's time to stop! Accept and cling to God's truth! Nothing can separate you from His love.