

God Promises Nothing Will Separate Us From His Love

Opener: These days it's increasingly cool to be gloomy. How has that pessimism affected us?

Scripture: 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. Romans 8:31-39

Discussion Questions

- Paul had already laid out exactly what Jesus did for us on the cross and explained how it fulfilled all God began through the law. After explaining “these things” he lays down his conclusion—God is for us, and that means nothing and no one can win against us. Anticipating objections, he lists potential enemies:
 - First he brings up trouble and hardship. How can they tempt us to believe that God is against us?
 - What about persecution, famine, and nakedness? How can persecution or poverty increase our fear that God doesn't love us?
 - How about physical danger? How does it tempt us to believe that God doesn't care about us?
- Then in Romans 8:37 Paul adamantly affirms that none of those things can defeat us because we're more than conquerors through God who loves us. If that's true, are we immune from experiencing them and being hurt by them? Why or why not?
- Here's his list of things that can seem big enough to defeat us:
 - Death and life. How does God's love make us conquerors in death and life?
 - Angels and demons. How could angels or demons to be a threat to victory in our lives?
 - Present and future. Why would we need reassurance that nothing in time or space can separate us from God's love?
 - Powers, height and depth. What could be included in powers and height and depth that could threaten our perception of God's love?
 - Anything else. He concludes with the catch-all phrase “nor anything else in all creation.” What could fall into that category?
- In thinking through the truth Paul is presenting along with the objections there could be, if we wholeheartedly believe we really are more than conquerors because He loves us, how would it affect how we process who we are and what happens to us? Examples?

Wrap Up: Generally we win because we're stronger, smarter, have practiced more, or are naturally gifted. But here we're told we're more than conquerors through Him who loved us. What's love got to do with winning and how is it that powerful? Here's the answer: Love is that powerful because it binds us to God Himself. And He never loses.