

No Separation!

Text: Romans 8.37–39

Theme: Our confident assurance is because God's invincible love is constantly for us in Christ Jesus.

Introduction — God is for us

- we hear this, accept this, and seem to move on
- we take it for granted: of course, God is for us; why shouldn't He be?
- after all, we are all created in His image, so of course He'd love us
- we are special, we are unique
- an apparently well-known male actor died this past week from cancer
- some of his last words, via a short online video were these:
- "I am worthy of God's love, simply because I exist."
- so, yes, of course; God is for us—it has to be because I'm me
- well, we could debate that for quite some time, but let me change the question now

But is God against anybody?

- if we hear someone begin a sermon this way, we are bound to argue back
- wait! What right do you have to say such things?
- that is not the way I think of God at all
- and if God is against anyone, does that not make Him arbitrary?
- yet, Paul knew the nature of humans
- sinful, not righteous at all, corrupt, none good, no not one
- exchanged glory of God for lie
- all—every single human being—falls short of what God requires of us
- therefore, the wages we get paid for working so hard as sinners is? Death
- so, it appears that God might have good reason to be against us

We have seen, in Romans 8, that it is only those in Christ whom God is not against

- no condemnation, no separation, Spirit dwelling in us, adopted into His family
- very description of God's grace

So, it should amaze us every time we hear these words: God is for us

- humble you, break your pride and arrogance
- fall down on your knees and worship Him with overflowing gratitude
- recognize that at one time He WAS against you, but now, in Christ
- **Ephesians 2:4-5 "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved..."**

Here we are, end of Romans 8, monumental chapter that it is

- scaled from base camp: no condemnation
- ascended thru Spirit's strengthening help
- past the law's weight
- beyond sinful desires which are being mortified
- into heavily climes of adoption, Spirit & Christ's intercession, and more
- hit the pinnacle in v. 28
- took only slight step down in vv. 29–30

- now begin our descent back into other matters
- but before we leave here, must see: no separation

Romans 8.35 asks, “What shall separate us?”

- Paul, in v. 37, so sure, so certain, so convinced: answer is...NOTHING!
- oh, the love of God for us in Christ
- it conquers all our fears: perfect love casts out fear, we read in Scripture
- it makes conquerors of us: victory in Christ is ours

Our confident assurance is because God’s invincible love is constantly for us in Christ Jesus.

- Paul now shows this by revealing spiritual powers & matters which cannot do so
- it is quite an impressive list, nothing is left out

So, let’s begin by observing what cannot separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus

I. DEATH CANNOT SEPARATE US

- Paul starts with greatest separator
- death comes to us all; appointed unto man once to die
- that which breaks all relationships...
- husbands from wives: remember your vows? “‘til death do us part”
- parents from children, friends from friends
- death terminates those earthly experiences
- it even separates our soul from our body until final resurrection
- but death will never separate those in Christ from God’s love
- Paul is utterly convinced of this
- death may break every other relationship, but not this one
- Scripture tells us: to be absent from body is to be present with Lord
- death actually ushers us into more intimate relationship with Christ
- Paul knew that to die would be great gain
- DL Moody once said, **“One day you will read that D.L. Moody is dead. Don’t you believe it! He will never be so much alive as he will be when you are told that he has died.”**

So death can’t do it, but what about things in this life?

II. LIFE CANNOT SEPARATE US

- face it; times when we do not feel close to God at all
- we wonder if God has forgotten some of promises to us
- so much stress, pressure on us to perform in certain manner
- how difficult is it to live by faith and not by sight in this world?
- then there is the monotony of everyday life
- week after week just plods on and more comes after that
- yet not even this, in this life, can separate us from God’s love
- passion in marriage changes after that first year or so; but intimacy deepens, as does love
- think about this: blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus in heavenly places
- so, even days when we feel far from God, He is always with you
- Jesus comes, says, “I live still and am with you always”

You can hear Paul’s readers thoughts, even as he anticipated them: what about angels?

III. ANGELS CANNOT SEPARATE US

- angels have immense power granted by God
- seraphim kept Adam & Eve from re-entering Garden
- destroyed cities of Sodom & Gomorrah with fire
- one angel passed over Egypt and killed all firstborn children not set apart for God
- single angel decimated Assyrian army & delivered Israel
- but no angel, not even Michael, great archangel is capable of separating us
- if one should try, they would completely fail
- not even entire host of heaven could do this unthinkable act

Okay, I understand this about angels; why would they want to. But demons, that's different, right?

IV. DEMONS/RULERS CANNOT SEPARATE US

- we sing Luther's A Mighty Fortress
- **For still our ancient foe, doth seek to work us woe;**
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal
- so, even though Satan would love to rip us out of God's arms, he cannot
- not all his malice, cunning & wiles can do this thing
- he can ruin trust in God as he did with Eve in garden
- he can seemingly weaken faith in Lord as he did with Peter
- but he cannot destroy love God has for us
- and if most powerful evil creature cannot, surely none of his minions can either
- remember what Jesus told Peter, when He knew Satan wanted to take Peter down?
- "I have prayed for you that your faith does not fail"
- have we not also seen here in Romans 8 that both Spirit & Christ intercede for us?
- so what can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus?

But my mind seems overly concerned with the list from v. 35; isn't that a problem?

V. THINGS PRESENT CANNOT SEPARATE US

- Paul gave list in v. 35: tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, sword?
- those were all present trials & troubles for Paul; even Roman Christians
- some may wonder why I spend so much time Children's Sermons on people who die
- because I want these boys & girls to know: if in Christ, nothing can take God's love away
- not tribulation, persecution, imprisonment, even death
- all these I tell of know the reality of God's love even greater now

Oh, but you don't know how I worry & am anxious about things to come & what they will do to me

VI. THINGS TO COME CANNOT SEPARATE US

- God is very aware of that which makes you anxious
- He sees the fears you have of tomorrow and what it may bring
- Christ knows the worries you carry
- all of us have done this, even most laid back among us
- some are given to this night & day
- you sit & stew over all the distressing and horrendous things that might happen
- to you, your spouse, your children, more
- all sorts of difficulties, problems, hardships & heartaches could pop up
- all these looming possibilities & anxieties: can never separate you from God's love in Christ
- not even the reality of catastrophes of end of world can do this to you

- He has promised to keep you from the worst, to guard you
- so, remember this: God will never lose you; His love will never let you go

But Paul, surely there are other forces at work here, right? Surely they can do damage to my spiritual well-being

VII. NEITHER POWERS, NOR HEIGHT NOR DEPTH CAN SEPARATE US

- let's list a few powerful things that we think could tear us out of God's grasp
- physical powers, nuclear power, tsunamis, hurricanes, tornadoes
- there are microscopic items that seek to destroy us: viruses, bacterium, plagues, diseases
- what about worldly powers: one world government, secret entities toppling nations
- see it happening around us: socialism, marxism, abject humanism
- all sorts of threats from other world religions, Islam especially; even atheism
- what about space—height, depth, etc.
- when was last time you prayed? Did that great space take away God's love from you?
- perhaps you are trying to "hide" from God due to ongoing sin
- you know He doesn't approve of way you are living, so His love must have grown thin
- remember Psalm 139: wherever I am, You are there, O God
- no matter what I do, righteous or incredibly sinful & disobedient, You are there
- where can I go from Your Spirit? No where; wherever I go, you are with me
- greatest possible height, lowest possible depth, up or down: God is near to you
- no, not a one of these things can separate you from God's love in Christ Jesus
- so, rest assured, be confident
- our confident assurance is because God's invincible love is constantly for us in Christ Jesus.

I must have missed something, this cannot really mean nothing, can it?

VIII. NOTHING IN ALL CREATION CAN SEPARATE US

- boil it all down, only two entities in heaven & earth: Creator & creation
- nothing in God's creation can separate you from His love
- some believe that you alone can take yourself away from God's love
- you have been taught, maybe always just believed with no basis in Bible
- I can decide to abandon God and faith in Christ
- let me point you to what Jesus Himself said about you, if you are in Christ
- **John 6:37-40 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."**
- then He goes on in John 10
- **John 10:27-29 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.**
- if you are in Christ, you cannot take yourself away from Him
- besides, if in Christ, how foolish it would be to think you would want to

CONCLUSION – Christ's love is God's love which will never leave us

- His love is invincible, eternal
- think about what we've seen in this chapter

1. God's love works all things for our good

- so His love will not separate you from Him for that would not be good at all!

2. God's love determined before creation that you be conformed to likeness of His Son

- your inheritance is to be like Christ; God is committed to bringing this about
- He can never fail; it will happen

3. God's love began in eternity past: foreknown, predestined, called, justified, glorified

- God has highly exalted Christ, has lifted Him up to highest place
- we are in Christ and we will be glorified in and with Christ

4. God's love did not even spare His own Son

- God did not hold back what would ensure that we would be His
- did not hold Christ from us, so He will most assuredly give us all spiritual blessings
- God did His most & best in giving Christ
- He will not hold back from giving us His love in His Son

Are you in this love of Christ Jesus?

- this only place where this inseparable love of God can be found
- you ask: how can I get this love because surely you cannot think to live without it
- it is only in Christ, not any part of you
- it is received by faith due to God's grace coming upon you
- it is what happens when you cry out to God for mercy & His Spirit re-births you
- it is how God will respond when you say, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner"
- it is coming...coming today, for today could be the day of your salvation
- it is coming with sins, fears, weaknesses, infirmities
- it is casting yourself upon Jesus, who calls you: Come to Me, all who are weary
- Come, just as you are
- then, this mighty, powerful, life-altering love of God will be yours
- and nothing can separate you from it...ever