

The Security of the Love of God

Romans 8:35-39 (The love of God is mentioned in vs. 35, 37, 39)

I considered several different titles for this sermon:

The Inseparable Love of God
The Eternal Bond of God's Love
Eternally Linked to the Love of God
The Juggernaut of God's Love
The Invincible Love of God

All these titles reflect the central message of our text: **Absolutely nothing can sever you from the love of God.** God's love is invincible, immutable, unconditional, unstoppable, and unshakable—God loves you. He always has, and He always will.

➔ HUMAN LOVE is fickle and conditional. BUT, “*God IS love.*” His love is unconditional, constant, eternal, and perfect.

Some of the saddest words I've ever heard in marital counseling is when one spouse turns to the other and says, “I don't love you anymore.” I've heard it more times than I care to remember. When I hear someone say that, I can only rejoice that I'll never hear God say those words.

➔ Paul's question (v. 35)—“*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?*” It is a question without an answer.

I. The **CIRCUMSTANCES** of life cannot separate us from God's love (vs. 35-37).

A. The **VARIETY** (v. 35). SEVEN. Paul experienced all of them.

1. Does “**tribulation**” (affliction, trouble, calamity) mean God doesn't love you?
 - Did the afflictions of Job mean God didn't love Him?
 - Life is hard! But God is good. Jesus said, “*In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world*” (John 16:33).
2. Does “**distress**” (emotional stress and anguish of mind) mean God doesn't love you?
 - Feeling of being trapped—no where to turn (cf. 2 Cor. 1:8).

3. Does “**persecution**” (abused, ridiculed, attacked, neglected) mean God doesn’t love you?
 - Followers of Christ have always been persecuted (*Foxes Book of Martyrs*). That didn’t mean God didn’t love them.
 4. Does “**famine**” (hunger) mean God doesn’t love you?
 - 1 Cor. 4:11—*Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace.*)
 5. Does “**nakedness**” (poverty) mean God doesn’t love you?
 - Financial burdens and unemployment doesn’t mean God doesn’t love you.
 - God has a purpose in your unemployment.
 - God loves you just as much if you are dressed in rags as if you’re dressed in a suit costing hundreds of \$\$\$.
 6. Does “**peril**” (great dangers) mean God doesn’t love you?
 - Read 2 Cor. 11:23-27. Paul never doubted God loved him!
 7. Does the “**sword**” mean God doesn’t love you?
 - Martyrdom (Acts 12:2; Heb. 11:37)
 - The “**sword**” could also represent the government (Rom. 13:4). Government may separate someone from society, but it cannot separate a person from the love of God.
- ➔ “**WHO** [not what] **shall separate us from the love of God.**”
 Satan may take your comfort... your money... your possessions... your freedom... even your life, but he can never take away God’s love from you.
- Satan will use hard circumstances to tempt you to question God’s love. Satan whispers, “If God loved you, you wouldn’t be suffering these things.”

It’s a LIE! Circumstances have nothing to do with God’s love. When everything seems to be going wrong, God still loves you. When everything seems to be going right, God still loves you.

➔ ILLUS: **Graph of God’s Love.** Picture a straight horizontal line across a graph—That represents God’s unwavering love. Now,

consider a wavering line cascading up and sometimes dipping below the horizontal line of God's love. That line represents our conduct and circumstances. God's love is steady and unchanging, while our behavior has its ups and downs.

➡ If you want to measure how much God loves you, don't look at circumstances, look at the cross (Rom. 5:8).

- B. The **VICTORY** of God's love (v. 37). "*NAY, in **all these things...** [what things? Tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword] we are unconquerable **“THROUGH CHRIST who LOVES US.”***"
-

“More than conquerors”—“super-conquerors!” **The believer who is resting in the surety of God's love *cannot be defeated.***

II. **The CONFIDENCE of our security in God's love** (vs. 38-39).

➡ *“I am persuaded...”* Absolutely convinced, beyond a shadow of doubt! Nothing could make Paul question God's love for him.

- A. Not **death**— Death may close your eyes... silence your voice... deafen your ears... stiffen your body, BUT death cannot remove you from the love of God! In fact, death ushers us into the very presence of the God who loves us (John 5:24).
- B. Not **life**—No temptation... no disease... no sin... no fear... no failure... nor any person in this life can separate us from Christ's love.
- C. Not any **cosmic being**—Angels, principalities, devils, spiritual powers are helpless to take us away from the love of God.
- ➡ Satan may separate me from my health... my wealth... my home... my possessions... my job... my loved ones (like he did to Job), but he cannot separate me from the love of God.
- D. Not any thing **present or any thing in the future**: The future can change many things—It can change your plans... dash your dreams... shatter your hopes, BUT the future will never diminish God's love for you. *I don't know what tomorrow holds; But I know who holds tomorrow. And I know He holds my hand!* Absolutely

nothing existing today, nor any thing that may exist in the future can cut us off from Christ and His love.

- E. Not **height or depth**: Nothing from outer space above or from the depths of the earth can separate us from Christ and His love.
- F. The grand finale— If there be "***any other creature***" that I did not mention—that cannot separate us from "*the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"

SUMMATION: There is no force or entity in the universe that can drive a wedge between you and the love of God.

➡ **Nothing can stop God from loving you!** Why? Because **God's love has nothing to do with you!** God's love isn't based on YOU, or what you do (or, don't do). It is based on JESUS—"the love of God **which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**" God will always love you as much as He loves His Son Jesus! Why? Because you are "*in Christ*".

- You may have deserted Him like the disciples, but God still loves you.
- You may have denied Him like Peter, but God still loves you.
- You may have doubted Him like Thomas, but God still loves you.
- You may see your family torn apart, or your marriage heading for disaster, but God still loves you.
- When committed some terrible sin and you feel that God could never forgive you, God still loves you.

Pastor George Matheson was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1842. Due to an illness he went blind when he was 18. Despite his blindness, he graduated from the University of Glasgow and later from seminary. He pastored several churches in Scotland. Matheson wrote the beautiful hymn which begins with the following verse—

O love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.