

Why should we believe that we can trust God's love to remain unchanged?

- **It is a love that never fails**

3 Long ago the LORD said to Israel: "I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself. - Jeremiah 31:3 NLT

What should you do if you just don't feel like God loves you?

- **It is a love that never ends**

13 Three things will last forever--faith, hope, and love--and the greatest of these is love. - 1 Corinthians 13:13 NLT

Is there someone you know who needs the strength and comfort this verse provides? If so share it with them this week.

WRAP-UP

In Romans 8's conclusion, Paul reflects on life's adversities, using his own experiences to illustrate that such suffering doesn't signify divine disfavor. Even Jesus faced such challenges, demonstrating that adversity can be part of sharing in Christ's suffering rather than punishment for sin. Paul emphasizes that despite facing these trials, believers are overwhelmingly victorious through Christ's love, which remains steadfast and unchanging, regardless of life's difficulties.

In the face of opposition, whether from natural life events, spiritual forces, or emotional struggles, Paul reassures us that nothing can separate us from God's love. The everlasting love of Jesus—unchanging, unfailing, and eternal—offers hope and comfort, and encourages us to trust in God's truth and God's love.

MEMORY VERSE

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow--not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. - Romans 8:38 NLT

Challenge-

If someone you care about is struggling to feel loved and cared for, share the love of God with them through actions and God's truth.

Eternal Unbreakable Love Romans 8 - Week 9

INTRODUCTION

As we conclude our deep dive into Romans 8, we find Paul's emphatic assurance of God's love for us. In verses 31 – 34 he declares our eternal security in judicial terms, that no one can accuse or condemn us because our price has been paid by Jesus. But in his conclusion Paul declares our eternal security in relational terms. Our salvation isn't merely a legal matter, it is a matter of love. And how powerful is God's love for us? It is eternal, unbreakable love.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing that you really love that you have been able to keep for a very long time?

Key Passage

35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? 36 (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. 38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow--not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below--indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 8:35-39 NLT

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. When Bad Things Happen

Paul was no stranger to adversity. In this conclusion to chapter 8 he appears to be drawing from many of his own experiences in support of his declaration of God's love.

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?
- Romans 8:35 NLT

In this verse, Paul lists 7 things that might happen in our lives. Let's define each term-

*Trouble (thlipsis) – affliction or anguish, (physical pain)
Calamity (stenochōria)- a hardship, something causing distress, (possibly social or cultural challenges like loss of a home or job)
Persecution(diōgmos)- to pursue or put to flight (run off)
Hunger (limos)- famine, scarcity of food
Destitute (gymnotēs) – insufficient clothing, nakedness
Danger (kindynos) – peril
Threat of Death (machaira) – a sword used for execution*

Based on what you know about Paul's life, can you recall when he faced any or all of these? How many also apply to Jesus' life? Which of these have you personally experienced?

17 And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. - Romans 8:17 NLT

36 (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. - Romans 8:36-37 NLT

In the first century, and even today, some might view a person's suffering as an index of divine disfavor- in other words, this is God's punishment for their wrongdoing. But if Paul, and Jesus, faced these same circumstances, we can't conclude that it was God's punishment for their sins. In fact, it may be what Paul referenced in verse 17. Sharing in Christ's suffering. That may be why Paul follows this list with a quote from Psalm 44 referring to us as sheep to be slaughtered. Jesus himself was the sacrificial lamb of God.

There will be times when we reap what we sow and experience the consequences of our own sinfulness. But what is the problem with assuming that sin is the cause of all adversity? What attitude does it reveal about us?

Verse 37 calls us hypernikaō or overwhelmingly victorious. Describe the connection between Christ's love, his suffering and our victory?

2. When You Face Opposition

38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow--not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below--indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 8:38-39 NLT

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, 29 for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. - John 10:27-29 NLT

21 Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else--not only in this world but also in the world to come. - Ephesians 1:21 NLT

Even though we are victorious, we continue to face opposition. Paul assures us that none of the opposition we face has the power to separate us from God's love. Paul's list of opposition here includes our natural existence of life and death; good or evil spiritual beings; emotional and mental distress; the passage of time; no power whatsoever and nothing ever created.

While we might understand that God is the greatest of all powers, there may be times when doubts or fears arise. Have you faced challenges to your faith in any of these areas- losing a loved one (death), demonic encounters (listening to lies of Satan), anxiety or depression (or mental illness of any kind)? How did the circumstances develop that caused you to doubt God's love for you and how do the verses above counter that challenge to your faith in God's love?

3. Why Jesus' Love Won't Let You Go

Here are 3 reasons why the love of Jesus will never let you go.

- *It is a love that never changes*

"I am the LORD, and I do not change... - Malachi 3:6a NLT

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

- Hebrews 13:8 NLT