



## Week 6: Our God

March 13-19, 2022

Romans 8:31-39 | Chapter 13

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We have now entered the homestretch of our time in Romans 8 - the triumphant concluding verses. This week teaches one core truth: *No one or thing can successfully oppose the one God is for.* The verses provide the rousing conclusion for Paul's argument about God's love for His children. Paul gives us a promise that we can count on. And he sets up this promise by asking a rhetorical question.

**As you read, underline Paul's question. Then pay close attention to how Paul answered.**

### **ROMANS 8:31-39**

*What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.*

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

*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. 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.*

**Next, write out all the things Paul said cannot separate us from Jesus.**

**If nothing can separate us from Jesus, why do we fear separation?**

**Notice that Paul did not say we would not experience tribulation, distress or**

**persecution, but that when we do, they wouldn't separate us from Jesus. Why is this an important distinction?**

The word that Paul used for separate means to depart, separate from, or divorce. He asked this rhetorical question after going through a dissertation of God's defense and love for His children. We can no longer be condemned, we have received the Spirit of adoption, and future glory is waiting for us. Because of Jesus, nothing in all the world can successfully separate us from God's love.

**Why do we confuse the presence of problems with the absence of God's affection?**

We're not out of the woods just because we became Christians. We still live in a broken world. Sin - both personal and environmental - is part of the deal. However, for the Christian, what happens to us on earth is the closest we will ever get to hell. It's the closest we will ever get to separation from God. Sure, life can get worse than it is right now, but eternally we're secure. God has not promised a carefree life. But He did promise He will always be with us.

**READ [ROMANS 8:35-39](#).**

**Have you ever felt abandoned by God? Describe that experience.**

**What in this passage gives you evidence of God's immovable presence in your life?  
How does that truth make you feel?**

Paul affirmed that nothing has the power to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. The list of potential separators include physical danger, spiritual beings, present and future occurrences, and powers above us and below us. To clearly indicate that absolutely no thing or person can come between the Lord and His people, Paul concluded his list with "anything else in all creation." Absolutely nothing can come between us and our Lord. Nothing can remove us from His family.

**How can you apply this passage to times when you might feel like God is absent?**

## **APPLICATION**

What evidence of God's presence do you see in your day-to-day life?

What difference does trusting in God's presence make as you try to persevere through difficult times?

In what situation will you rest in God's presence this week?

## **PRAYER**

Lead your group in prayer, thanking God for His work on the cross that is the ultimate example of His unwavering love for us. Thank Him for His continued faithfulness to us and His presence with us. Pray that no matter what we face this week, we would be able to cling to the promises of Romans 8 and trust in His love for us.

## **COMMENTARY**

### **ROMANS 8:31-39**

**8:31.** If God is for us expresses not a hypothetical scenario, but a sure reality: God really is for us. This well summarizes the gospel, and serves as a concise summary of 3:21-8:30. Old Testament believers had the same assurance: "I fear no danger, for You are with me" ([Psalm 23:4](#); [Psalm 27:1](#)). "This I know: God is for me" ([Psalm 56:9](#)). Who is against us? The opposition seems like a lot sometimes—the world, the flesh, Satan, secularists, false religions, our enemies—but God loves us and is sovereign. Yahweh is our Shepherd, Maker of heaven and earth!

**8:32.** In contrast to Abraham who was permitted to spare his only son, God did not spare His Son. If God did the greater (gave His Son), will He not do the lesser and give us all that is necessary for life and godliness? Of course He will.

**8:33.** Our accusers are numerous, but God the Judge has already pronounced the final verdict.

**8:35-36.** God's people have always faced persecutions and hardships, as vividly portrayed in the complaints of Psalm 44. Will such things separate us from the love of Christ?

**8:37.** We are more than victorious not by our ability but because God loved us.

**8:38-39.** Paul's "grand persuasion" is in the perfect tense, which indicates a past action that has ongoing impact. Having been persuaded (by God), he stood firm in the belief that nothing could separate him from the love of God. Jesus conquered death and Satan on the cross, ensuring that nothing can change God's love or purpose for us. We "are being protected by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last

time” ([1 Peter 1:5](#)).

Many interpreters have been puzzled by this section of Romans. Anti-Jewish interpreters argue that God is finished with the Jews (9:1-29), while other interpreters view these chapters as a digression from Paul’s exposition of the gospel. But K. H. Rengstorff of Germany recognized otherwise in 1949: “During the years of its sufferings, the Confessing Church learnt that Romans 9-11 held the key to the understanding of the New Testament.”

This is because these chapters help answer tough questions about how Jesus could be the Jewish Messiah and yet suffer rejection by the majority of Israel. Was the glory of the Davidic Messiah not supposed to excel the glory of David himself? Also, the Jewish expectation was that when Messiah came, Israel would be delivered from Gentile oppression and would hold priority over the nations. Since these things had not happened, many people assumed either that Jesus was not the promised Messiah or else that God had broken His promises to Israel. Furthermore, if Jesus really was Messiah and yet God had not delivered Israel, how could anyone trust Him to keep His gospel promises? And so the trustworthiness of God seemed to be on the line.

Paul overturned these doubts by answering from three perspectives: (1) from the viewpoint of divine sovereignty (chap. 9), (2) from human responsibility (chap. 10), and (3) from God’s final purpose (chap. 11).