

Venture LifeGroups
Eight
Session 6: Nothing Can Separate Us
Romans 8:31-39

Main Point

God will keep His promises because He has already given us the best gift in Jesus Christ.

Introduction

1. What situation in your life has required the most perseverance and determination from you? What motivated you to go the distance?
2. At what times do you find it the most challenging to persevere in your relationship with God and the work He has called you to? What factors make perseverance tough in those moments?

Understanding

| Read Romans 8:31-32.

1. What does it mean to you to read that God is for you? If you are “for” someone or something, what does that entail?
2. What example does Paul give as the reason we can have confidence that God is a God of ultimate power and unlimited supply? Why is this significant?
3. What are some of the needs (v. 32) you have on a regular basis? How has the enemy attempted to defeat you when it comes to those specific needs?
4. How can the certainty of God’s love help you fight off the enemy’s attack?

| Read Romans 8:33-34.

1. What is the work of Christ on behalf of believers? How is this work evidence of God’s unwavering love for us?
2. Read Romans 8:1. What do verses 8:31-34 reveal as the reason why “there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”? Why is this good news for us? How should this truth change how we live each day?

| Read Romans 8:35-39.

1. What in verses 35-39 gives you evidence of God’s unwavering love for you?
2. Of the things listed in these verses that cannot separate believers from the love of Christ, which stands out to you the most? Why? Share an example from experience that relates to that point.
3. Why can these things not separate believers from the love of Christ?
4. How does verse 36 relate to this passage? What does it mean in the context of these verses for believers to be victorious?

5. What role does the Holy Spirit play in keeping believers connected to Christ's love?
6. What do these verses teach about the power of God's love in the life of a believer?

Application

1. What evidence of God's love do you see in your day-to-day life?
2. What difference does trusting in God's love for you make as you persevere through difficult times? In what situation will you trust God more this week?
3. What is the closest you have come to feeling the despair and loneliness of being separated from God like Paul describes in Romans 8:31-39? How was your relationship with Him impacted? What will you do differently if you are ever in a similar situation?
4. What steps can you take to be more aware of all the positive actions Jesus has done/is doing for you? How can we help remind one another of this truth?

Commentary

Romans 8:31-39

8:31. Paul wrote from first-hand experience about the overwhelming impact of God's love on him. The first phrase invites a verdict, what then are we to say? The response to this question is based in reality on the previous seven and a half chapters. This section is the height of Paul's argument. That God is for us is the most important statement Paul could make. We do not need to be afraid of God or uncertain about the present or the future. God has demonstrated He is for us. By comparison, any opposition is inconsequential.

8:32-34. The offer of His own Son is the ultimate demonstration of God's favor. Paul had experienced many charges against him. His confidence in God was so great, however, that he dared anyone to bring an accusation against God's people. God has taken care of the greater things, our eternal destiny and our standing before Him. We should not allow lesser things to shake our faith in God. They simply are not qualified to do so.

8:35-37. These last five verses begin and end with the idea of not being separated from God. Death is the great separator, but for believers that separation is only physical and temporary. Each of the perils in verse 35 arise from official suppression of Christianity. Verse 36 is a quote from Psalm 44:22. It shows God's people have always faced great danger. Rather than being extinguished, God's people have survived, flourished, and witnessed a new chapter in God's work amidst humanity. The verse probably refers to all of the items listed in the previous verse but is especially tied to the mention of "sword." For your sake is a stark reminder our faith in God puts us in danger. Against the modern notion that faith means protection from all difficulty is the biblical fact that faith places us in jeopardy. Paul responded to the Psalm with powerful confidence. Even in the face of physical danger, we who are in Christ are more than victorious.

8:38. Paul put forth his experience as proof of the contention that nothing can ultimately defeat a Christian. The Greek word for sure means "a firm and settled conviction." Paul had no doubt about his confidence. Death nor life is the first pair of challenges that could imperil a Christian's standing before God. Death appears the ultimate separator, the final end. But as Paul argued repeatedly, a Christian is raised with Christ and experiences life with Him. Life refers here to the travails of life. Nothing we have to endure will sever our relationship with God. The second pair, angels nor rulers, could be classes of angelic beings. In light of the contrast between life and death, however, Paul may have meant "rulers above as well as rulers below." The contrast continued between things present and things to come. Nothing in the present day can sever our relationship with God, nor can any future circumstance.

8:39. Paul continued the contrasting pairs with height and depth (v. 39). Some ancient writers used these terms to indicate things above the heavens and beneath the earth. Paul probably meant that nothing from any realm can alter a Christian's security. Nor anything else in all creation is a collective

phrase to include anything Paul may have overlooked. In his experience and in his imagination, nothing will separate us from the love of God. With this stunning certainty Paul concluded this first section of Romans.