

Romans 8: 26-39 Nothing can separate us from God's love. 26th July 2026

Prayer: Lord lead and guide us by your Holy Spirit dwelling in us. May we hear your word and respond to your great love for us today. In Jesus name, Amen.

Have you ever been separated from someone you really needed to stay close to?

I recall the fear of losing a small child in busy shopping centres. Our second child (the one I spoke about the other week who would do things she wasn't suppose to do!) would love to go and hide behind racks of clothes and think it was funny!

We've sadly also experienced separation through estrangement of a family member, and no doubt we've all experienced separation of a loved one through death.

Do you ever feel separated from God? Perhaps due to feelings of sin and shame, or because you are experiencing a dry desert period in your faith, struggling with doubts and fears?

Well, have I got good news for you! For Romans 8 continues to fill us with comfort and assurances, amazing news as we reach the end of the chapter today.

Hear those final verses again...³⁸ *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,^[c] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,* ³⁹ *neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD! NOTHING!!

Not our sin, not our doubts, not our suffering, not our enemies, not the devil, not time- whatever we have done in the past or will do in the future. Nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus. There is nothing we can do to make God love us more, and nothing we can do to make God love us less. There is nothing that will remove his love from us.

What a promise to hold onto. Don't forget it.

This is our third week just in chapter 8 of Romans! As I said 2 weeks ago, this chapter is the central one in this letter that has been broken down into 16 chapters. It is not only central to this letter, but also central to the message of the gospel.

Let's hear again the good news in this chapter so far...

It began with the message that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus – that's us, believers in Christ, we are free from sin and death, free from the law. We are filled with God's Spirit – his very presence living in us, and we are God's children, adopted in his family – coheirs with Jesus Christ himself. We have hope in the glory yet to be fully revealed, we will experience suffering in this life, but as we share Christ's suffering we will

also share in his glory. Along with all of creation we groan and long for the day when all be renewed, transformed.

And today we reach the climax of this chapter and letter we read of God's great love that we can never be separated from.

There could be another 3 sermons just in this section -verses 26 -39! But don't worry we will finish it today 😊

We could focus on the first few verses which follow on from last week with the Spirit groaning. How the Spirit will help us in our weakness – whether weakness in times of temptation, or weakness in when we are suffering through trials like ill health or life circumstances or persecution. The Spirit will give us strength as we surrender and ask for help rather than push on in our own strength or pride.

There are times when we might feel so weak we don't know what or how to pray. Paul says that the Spirit knows and God searches our hearts – he listens to the inner groanings and responds.

The Spirit's groanings here are not about speaking in tongues, which Paul talks about as a gift of the Spirit in Corinthians, here Paul is talking about unspoken groanings. Groaning in pain for the broken world, or our broken selves, and the church, and groaning, like the pains in child birth, a longing for the full redemption and freedom to come for the whole world.

Or we could have a whole sermon on the next little section, that begins with the oft quoted verse *"We know in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose"*.

Paul says this is something that *we know*, he said we do *not know* what we ought to pray for, but that we *do know* in all things God works for good. Sometimes people misuse this verse, shrugging off the pain when things are not going well, *'don't worry, God will use this pain for good, it will work out'*, or people might point the finger, or worry about themselves – *"God would work things out for good if I really loved him and was called by him...since they aren't working out – maybe I don't love him enough or he hasn't called me"*.

NO, Paul says *we know* that God works – he is at work in our lives – his Spirit in those who believe, we have been assured of that. He is always at work in us, even or especially when we are suffering. What did we sing in our opening hymn...

There is hope in every trial

For I can trust the Lord

He will turn my heart towards Him

And help me bear the thorn

So, in faith, I follow Jesus
On the road not understood
For I know that *He is working*
For His glory and my good

He is at work in us to make us more like Jesus – his ultimate goal for us. V29, he *predestined us to be conformed to the image of his Son*.

He does work through the pain and can bring good out of it at times. Think of the story of Joseph. Remember what he said to his brothers who had sold him into slavery, but he ended up working as Pharaoh's right-hand man. He said "*you intended to harm me, but God intended it for good, to accomplish what is now happening, the saving of many lives.*"

We could have an entire sermon on the meaning of pre-destination (verses 29-30). But I struggled enough with that when I studied it at Bible College and had to write an essay on the differing views of John Wesley and Calvin! I really hadn't given it much thought before then – I felt assured of God's love, I didn't question that he had called and chosen me, that he foreknew me. Even if my parents hadn't planned and chosen me, for I was number 5 surprise child!

As we read in psalm 139, he knew us before we were conceived, he knows our thoughts, he knows our past and our future. He is all knowing and he loves us and he sent Jesus so that all who believe in him will not perish but have everlasting life. He knows all who will believe and put their trust in him, and he knows who will reject him – but let's not get caught up in some of the mysteries that are too deep for us to fully understand.

Know that we are called to love God, and that he loves us, he has justified us, we are saved because of Jesus and will be glorified with him. The apostle Peter writes in his letters that we are God's chosen people and that God desires that all should turn to him and repent.

So, let's spend the remaining time on the central promise of God's calling and his gracious gift of love as we come to the end of this chapter.

In response to all the above, Paul begins the final section with the question, *If God is for us, who can be against us?*

It is a rhetorical "if", for God is for us- for as Paul points out, God *did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all* (v32)- so he will also *graciously give us all things*.

Not that all things will be easy in this life – but he gives us his Spirit to endure with hope and peace and even joy. Paul himself suffered much, beatings, persecution, shipwrecks and prison – yet here he is writing these words of encouragement to us, because he knows of God's great love for him and he wants his reader to know that as well.

Who will bring any charge against those he has chosen? Paul had been falsely charged and imprisoned. Christians are charged and imprisoned still today. So he says – NO ONE can bring a charge against us – for God has already acquitted us through Jesus who was condemned for us – *there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.* (v 1)

So don't listen to those false accusations, ones you might say to yourself, or the devil or others may whisper in your ear that you are not worthy of God's grace – you are free and loved – not condemned. Jesus is sitting at God's right hand interceding, that is praying for us – he finished the job of taking on our sins on the cross – done, once and for all.

So, *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?* (v35) *Trouble, hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?* Conflicts in the world, in our family, in our inner being?

NOTHING WILL!

In all these things and more, *we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* Because Jesus conquered sin and death and rose again – so shall we!

Not even death itself will separate us. When we die we remain united with Christ awaiting our final glorious transformation. Nothing from the past, present or future, no angels or demons, nothing in life, *nothing in all of creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.*

For God so loved the world...

Amen!!?

Do you believe that God loves you completely and forever?

Do we live like it? Knowing we are loved so much, living confident and assured lives as children of God. Will we share the good news with others, telling them that they are loved unconditionally. There are many who are hurting, anxious, doubting, worried about the world and their place in it, feeling unworthy...or that could be you today. So...

Take hold of the hope we have, the assurance of God's love for you – and remember that **NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM GOD'S LOVE – NOTHING!**

Let's pray: God thank you loving us always; while our love may be fickle at times, you are always faithful. Lord, please bring comfort and assurance to those who may be struggling to receive your love. Lord, continue to work in us through your Spirit to be more like Jesus, and use us to show others your amazing love. In the precious name of Jesus who died and rose again and intercedes for us, Amen.