

# The Commitment of A Loving Father

5.18.25

Message 36

Romans Series

Main Text: Romans 8:31-34

Romans 8:31-39 (CSB)

<sup>31</sup> What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything? <sup>33</sup> Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup> Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written:

**Because of you we are being put to death all day long; we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered.**

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Introduction

A. All of the details Paul has presented so far can feel overwhelming:

1. The ministry of the Holy Spirit, the meanings of justification and righteousness, the role of the Law and the depth of God's wrath.
2. But Paul wraps all of this in one clear declaration: "If God is for us, who is against us?"

B. Next week I want to focus on the “who” of these verses.

1. Today, notice the extent of God’s love for us.
2. The Apostle Paul begins to summarize chapter 8 and, to an extent, the first 8 chapters of Romans when he says, “What then are we to say about these things...”
3. A danger of reading Romans is to focus on the smallest details at the extent of the Gospel:
  - a. We must not forget how much God loves us.
  - b. In the difficulty of our days, it is the love of God that sustains us.
  - c. In the trials of our times, it is God’s love that keeps us pushing through the temptations and the trials.
  - d. When reading Scripture, if we miss God’s motivation of love, then we misread the Scriptures.

Notice Paul’s grand statements in verse 32.

## 1. He did not even spare his own Son...

- A. My role as pastor has taught me that human “love” is a fickle thing.
1. Some people “love” me until I tell them no.
  2. Some people “love” me as long as I give them what they want.
  3. Some people “love” me until someone or something better comes along.
  4. What I’ve learned is that none of that is love.
  5. Love cannot be reduced to a feeling, a product to be consumed, or a benefit.
  6. Love is a decision that remains after all of those other things have been removed.

B. Romans describes God as someone who loves us so much that, while we were sinners, Christ died for us.

1. God's love is a decision that declares, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son..."

a. There is nothing that we can offer God that He needs.

b. There is nothing we can give God that He hasn't first given to us.

c. In a sense, God gains nothing from our relationship with Him, except our fellowship.

2. Yet, Romans 8 describes the extent God has gone to love a sinful humanity!

3. So far that, He didn't spare even His own Son.

## 2. God's love is for Us.

A. Notice all of the plural pronouns in these verses:

1. Who is against us, gave him up for us all, grant us everything, intercedes for us, who can separate us, we are more than conquerors, who loved us...

2. The Promises of God are certain and sure..

3. These promises are for the Body, and we benefit as long as we stay connected in Christ's body.

4. The promises of God are not ours if we are not connected to Jesus.

5. Without Jesus, we are not more than conquerors, things don't work out for our good, and we are separated from the love of Jesus.

B. An important phrase is found in verse 39: from the love of God that is "in Christ Jesus our Lord."

1. When we see phrases like "in Christ Jesus" or "in the Spirit", the phrase assumes a relationship.

2. This word "in" is "a marker of close personal association-'in, one with, in union with, joined closely to.'"

3. To be "in Christ Jesus" means I'm as closely tied to Jesus as I possibly can be.

C. All throughout Scripture, we are invited to enter the family of God by being closely associated with Jesus.

1. When we are connected to Christ, the benefits and blessings that are his are shared.

a. Through Jesus, we are sons of God and coheirs with Christ Jesus.

b. Through Jesus, God never leaves us, we have access to the throne of Grace, and more promises than I possibly can say in a sermon.

2. But apart from Christ, we are separated and severed from those blessings.

3. So we must ask an important question of ourselves:

a. According to the truth and standard of Scripture, are we presently "in Christ Jesus?"

b. What do our words, deeds, thoughts, and actions demonstrate about our relationship with Christ?

c. Am I in love with Jesus, as long as I get what I want?

d. Am I living a life that is contrary to His standards?

4. Paul describes here in Romans 8 all of the things that cannot separate me from Christ's love.

a. No amount of hardship, persecution, affliction, or distress can separate me from God's love.

b. No demon, angel, power or proposition can make me less than a conqueror because Christ's rule has been assured and declared.

c. The only thing that can separate me from the love of Jesus is my sin.

D. Any member of the Body that separates itself from Christ dies.

1. Jesus taught this painful truth in John 15, that those who are not connected to the vine are thrown into the fire.

a. The Apostle Paul has repeatedly stated that those who live according to the flesh will die.

b. Those persons who choose to live life apart from God do not share in the promises and blessings of God.

2. The love, power, and promises of God are true and valid for the Body, but if I'm living my life apart from Jesus, then I'm missing out on what God has guaranteed for those who love God.

3. I have a lifelong friend and classmate named Shawn.

One summer, he was working in his grandpa's sawmill and the one of the belts took off the end of one of his fingers.

I'm not sure why it wasn't sewn on but it wasn't.

Because this happened in the summer, he had no good way of showing his friends at school what happened.

So, he did the logical thing for a high school boy:

He put it in a jar filled with alcohol till school started.

He comes walking into school with his fingertip in the jar and starts showing us around.

But after a while, we got bored with it. So, what do you do with a severed finger when you go to a rural school?

Naturally, you feed it to your dog...

3. Apart from our hand, the finger dies.

a. The finger no longer had any purpose or use because it was separated from the body.

b. Apart from Christ, we die.

### 3. Why does God's love sound like hate?

A. The world says that God must hate me because if He didn't, then there would be no sin or consequences of sin.

1. We live in a culture where correction, judgment, or punishment are attributed to hatred and not love.

2. It is true: God hates sin.

3. Sin is the ultimate separator.

a. It was sin that separated us from God in the Garden.

b. It is sin that keeps us separated from God today.

4. God loves us and hates sin.

B. But God loves us so much that He gave His own Son to pay the price of our sin.

1. We do not have to live a life separated from God.

2. We do not have to live in our sin and pay the price ourselves.

3. Because the Father did not spare even His own Son.

C. When I question if God loves me, I need to look to the Cross where Jesus bled and died.

1. Don't look to your feelings, because they rise and fade.

2. Don't look at your situation.

3. Instead, look to the decision of love that God has made: He gave His Son for me.

### 4. How will he not also with him grant us everything!

A. The consequences of separating from Christ are beyond description.

1. But the rewards of being with Him are infinitely greater.

2. It is easy for us to lose sight of who and what we have through Jesus.

B. I'm amazed and confused by the word "everything."

1. Is there anything this word excludes?

2. Is there anything that this word leaves out?

3. Or does it describe a loving God who, having already given us the greatest gift of His Son, refuses to withhold anything from us?

C. True love is a commitment.

a. The Apostle Paul ends Romans 8 with what has been called, "the magnificent celebration of God's eternal commitment to his people."<sup>1</sup>

b. God's commitment to us is a commitment of victory through Jesus.

c. No matter what we are going through, we are more than conquerors as long as we stay with Jesus.

## Apply

A. Simply today: How is your relationship to Jesus?

1. It's ok if this week has been a struggle, as long as you don't disconnect.

2. It's understandable that some weeks are harder than others, but don't let the hard convince you to quit.

3. The good thing about Sunday is that it serves as a checkpoint for us to examine weekly what was right about this week and what needs to change.

B. What challenges in your life need to be reminded of how Big God is?

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<sup>1</sup> Moo, Douglas J. *Romans*. The NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000.

1. When I allow challenges to overshadow what God has promised, I stop walking like a conqueror and more like a victim.
2. Nothing can separate me from God.
3. My circumstances may kill my life, but they can't keep me from God's love.
4. Sunday is a good time to remind myself that God's love for me is the greatest power and commitment in the world.
5. When you have a Father who is willing to sacrifice everything for us, and an older Brother named Jesus who has overcome death and intercedes on our behalf, the "who" that is against us can't compare to the "Him" that is for us.