

Romans 8:35–39

35Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36As it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long;

We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

37Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Divine, Invincible, Love of Christ

Main idea: Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

Introduction: Who is it that is making our case for us? God, Who loved us...

1. The love of Christ is the love of God

- a. Question in v35, but answer in v39 (n.b. the word change)
- b. Love of God IN Christ Jesus

2. Since Christ is God, everything is for His sake

- a. The most difficult to reconcile in the list of v35 are “persecution” and “sword” but Ps 44:2 has the answer for those (v36).
- b. This draws upon the purpose of God in v29—the glory of Christ in His redeemed.

3. Since we are Christ’s we super-conquer in everything

- a. Nothing is against us; we are literally always winning
- b. Super-conquering is: advancing toward sinless glory and resurrection
- c. A caution against using this to excuse sin (cf. 3:8, 6:1)
- d. We super-conquer because God is doing the work of the first half of Heb 12 to bring us to join the assembly in the second half of Heb 12, not only joining the souls of the just made perfect, but at last being resurrected with the whole host of Heb 11.

Conclusion: What shall we say to these things? They happen because Christ is being glorified. They happen because Christ loves

us. They happen because we are being made holy. They happen because we are coming at last to be glorified with Him, soul and body, in the resurrection!

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Romans 8, verse 35 through 39. These are God's words Who shall separate us from the love of christ. So tribulation or distress or persecution or famine. Are nakedness or peril or sword. As it is written.

For your sake. We are killed all day long. We are accounted. As sheep for the slaughter. Getting all these things, we are more than conquerors. Through him, who loved us. Fry and persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities nor powers. Nor things present, nor things to come nor height nor depth nor any other created thing.

Shall be able to separate us from the love of god. Which is in christ jesus. Oh, lord.

I'm in the census, reading of god's word.

Well, we are still. Really continuing the series of questions that we heard last week and towards the end of that sermon, we considered how they're all meant to be asked in this crescendo of questions. What shall we, what then shall we say? To these things. And we come to more of those questions.

Now, verse 35. Who shall separate us from the love of christ. Christ, of course, who died and rose and is at the right hand of god and he makes intercession for us. And we here now that he doesn't just make intercession for us as the one. Who has thrown his lot in with us and Makes our case as our advocate pleads, his own obedience, as our worthiness bleeds, his own sacrifices, as the payment for our sin.

The intercedes for us as one who loves us. His pleading on behalf of his beloved. Desiring and arguing. With all of the love and the desire. To be with his bride forever. Everyone of his saints, the members of his beloved bride, who is his beloved body bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh.

This is the emotion with which christ in his glorified humanity, and the right hand of god, the throne of heaven, With holy emotions. Pleading in love. For us. That is not merely cold divine calculation, or strict and firm. Divine justice. Cold is not something that would be divine. It's not merely perfect.

Perfect. Mathematical divine calculation. Or strict and firm rigorous divine justice. But the love of christ. In which he intercedes. For us. And so verse 35 asks, this question. With christ, having done those things. Dying and rising. And taking his seat with christ, sitting there with christ interceding for us in that love.

Who shall separate us. From the love of christ. You see the love of christ doesn't just in heaven because he is not just man. The love of christ is also on earth. Because he is god. And he ministers. His own. Presence to us. The benefits of his life, the strength, and the goodness.

Regardless that come from him for us in us, ministers them to us, by his spirit. And so, not only does he continually intercede for us there. But we continually have fellowship with him. Here you remember from earlier in the chapter, We suffer together with him. Before we are glorified with him, when it comes time to inherit together.

With him. And so, the Question who shall separate us from the love of christ has already in it, the hint of the first thing that we shall see tonight that the love of christ is the love of god. And then in a second place we see in verse 36, and particular.

That since christ is god, everything is For his sake. Therefore, For our six. Which means versus 37 through 39. That since we are christ. We super conquer and everything. So first, the love of christ is the love of god. This we can see quite plainly by seeing. The question in verse 35.

And then the answer in verse 39,

When he asked the question, he says, Who shall separate us from the love of. Christ. But when he comes to the end and he's telling us, he's persuaded That none of these created things. Nothing created. Shall be able to separate us. It doesn't answer the same question with which he began well, he does.

But he uses a different word to show us the greatness of the answer. Because the answer to the question who shall separate us from the love of christ as answered. Nothing shall separate us from the love of god. Which is in christ jesus. Our lord. And so the love of christ for us is, yes, Human love, according to his human nature, but the love of christ is Divine love.

It is the love of a person. Just as the righteousness of christ as the righteousness of a person. And when it is expressed and his humanity, it is a substitute righteousness for us but it is not the righteousness of a mayor, man. It is the righteousness of a man who is god and we become the righteousness of god through faith in him.

So also the love of christ. Yes, it comes to us in part through his human nature. He does as his appropriate to each of his nature's. But it is the love of a divine person. Indeed, this is something at which verse 39, hint. In the glorious way when it describes or refers to the love of god, which is in Christ jesus, our lord.

Not just that, god loves us in in christ jesus that That we are chosen in him. Known. For known in him. Loved in him from before the world began. But that christ jesus himself is god. And that the love for us that is in him is the love of god.

Text works both ways. Nothing shall separate us shall be able to separate us. From a love of god, which is in. Christ, jesus. Indeed, he is. Our lord. The creator. And the second place then. Since christ is god. Everything is for his sake. Everything. When tribulation happens or distress happens or Famine happens, or Nakedness happens or danger happens.

The glory of god is not under any sort of threat. We know all these things, glorify him even the creations. Groaning, as it is. It is subject to futility and bound to corruption and decay. Much of which we see and is so, so plain and terrible to man, that One of the great religions that has grown up in our own day, has a sort of environmental worship.

And response to these things that are Expressions of the power of god and his creation. You can't have a hurricane or a tidal wave. Or. Some other great event in the creation. God is glorified in all those things. His glorified in the greatness of them, he's glorified in the justice of them.

This world in which we were to take dominion, but as the head of which and the caregiver of which we sinned against him, We sinned against the lord and it was cursed for our sake.

And yet, we have, i think the greatest difficulty reconciling persecution And sword. With the goodness of god, and the glory of god, because there's such an obvious other will involved.

Like when a man's brothers, Kidnap him and sell him. And to slavery in egypt. Knowing that. That's a death sentence. Indeed, there are many evil men. And even even evil principalities and powers. As verse 38, Refers to Who intend evil and to do evil. And we considered that When we were thinking about, Who can be against us and that nothing?

Can be against us. But even persecution, even sword. And so, it's these. These two out of the list in verse 35, that the apostle Shows from scripture in verse, 36 quoting from psalm 44 as it is written for your sake. We are killed all day long. We are counted as sheep for the slaughter.

We don't. Uh, well, we don't eat much mutton at all. And just because of, you know, it's not a huge part of the american diet, but It's a quite a disordered man who You know, eats his steak and Yeah. Thinks that Uh, dreadful thing happened to this cow. This steer who became my My dinner.

Oh, no. That's That's what he's there for, and Yeah, sheep are going to be slaughtered. And, Yet, the purpose is not merely a dinner. When the persecution and even the killing of god's people. They are able to say for your sake. Oh lord. We are killed all day long.

Indeed, when the Dragon is cast down. Revelation 12. And he rages against the woman and her children, they overcome him. How by the blood of the lamb and the word of his testimony. Oh, well then. He doesn't get them. No, he does. Temporarily. And the best way possible. We overcame him by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony.

And they love not their lives, even until death. That was their overcoming. It's like everything else that the dragon does. He does his worst. And for us, it does the best. He attacks job and job. Who had already known god better than anyone else on earth at the time.

Says the knowledge that he has of god as a result of satan's attack, he doesn't know that it was Satan who attacked him. The knowledge that he had of god as a result was. Was incomparably greater than that, which he had before when he was so blameless that he was god's.

Grace trophy among all men. The devil attacks, jesus in the wilderness and the result is The active, obedience, the the righteousness of jesus that is counted for us, he waits to a more opportune time. He's very, very intentionally picks the timing of the cross and he enters Judas and he succeeds.

At bringing about the atonement for all of our sins are being the instrument through which that happened. Then diffie is to succeed with you in persecution and sword. Dear christian. He will fail you with a blow that makes you perfect and holiness. And makes you to immediately pass into glory.

And he will be the instrument. Of answering two of the glorious prayers in john 17 sanctify them. And you are made. Holy and i desire that they whom you have. Given me would be with me where i am.

Everything in all. Of history and all of creation. Happens for the sake of god's glory. And we can say for your sake, we are killed all day long. You can say, for your sake, I have been ill all month long, or for your sake, my co-workers have harassed me all year long.

For your sake. I have had to be upheld by grace and my weakness. All my life, long. For your sake. I Cry out to be delivered from the body of this death. Everything is for his sake, because He is god. And the marvelous truth of verse 29 is he has tied his sake to our sake.

It's not just for his sake, it's for ours. Because the way in which god has purposed to glorify himself, and in his son, Is first of all, in his son and the way that he is purposed to glorify his son, Is making him the redeemer and sanctifier. Of these many brethren.

Among whom he will be the firstborn. Or appear as the firstborn among many brethren. At the last day when they have been not just glorified and soul, but even in body And the groaning of the creation. And those who have the first fruits of the spirit and of the spirit himself, will all have been answered.

Since christ is god, everything is for his sake. And therefore, since We are christs, we super conquer. In everything. Verse 37. Yet in all these things, we are more than conquerors. We are super conquerors. Through him, who loved us. And the great part of the verse is actually in the second half, not the first Because the love of the lord jesus for us as better.

Then any other sort of victory, in fact, it is Ultimately the victory that this super conquering. Describes. From persuaded that neither death nor life angels nor principalities nor powers. Nor things present nor things to come or height nor depth. Nor any other. Created. Shall be able to separate us.

From the love of god which is in christ jesus our lord. You see the love? Of christ is the love of god. And he has loved us. From all eternity from, before we came to be The love of god in jesus, can't have an end because It didn't have a beginning.

That which is in god from outside of time. Cannot be not just stopped. It cannot be interrupted it. Cannot be hindered. It cannot waver. Due to anything in time. The love of god in christ. Jesus is as the generosity of god and james chapter 1. The demonstration for the demonstration of which god created son and moon, and stars.

So that all times, There are lights. Which are? A display in the creature. Of. The reality that something that is towards us in the creator. Can never waver. Never be diminished. And so every good and every perfect gift comes down from the father of lights, plural. Referring back to Genesis 1.

With whom there is no shifting or change. Due to shadow. But it's not just The. Generosity of god. That is continuous intense. Never changing never flickering. It's the love of jesus.

That always flows out to you. With perfect fullness divine. Intensity.

That we Mustn't. Think that this means that we may send. You know, that is one fleshly way to respond to this sort of idea. Well, if everything comes to me in the love of jesus and it even overrules The evil wills of evil men and he's good and attending good through it.

Then i can just sin all i want, can't i? Because won't my sinning be out of his love for me and won't my sinning. Be something that i end up. Super conquering, wouldn't it be more amazing when i am redeemed from even more sin? That's the kind of vile and wicked reasoning.

That. Christ. Super conquers. And those in whom he works by his grace. Remember in chapter 6, He condemned that idea. So we send therefore that grace, may abound, or that grace, may increase and back in chapter 3. Is even more pointed. Why not do evil? That good may come as some slanderously accuse us of saying, they're applying their fleshly wicked logic to the truth of the gospel.

And you remember how he answered he said there. Condemnation is just And so, when we're using that kind of logic, we actually are unable. To lay hold of the reality in verses 35 through verse 39. We're actually in a moment of great danger and need god to bring us immediately to repentance.

Not after we have committed the sin that we were rationalizing. But in the moment that we begin to think that way, That we cry out to god, and Reject, the sin. We flee the temptation. Resist the devil, but flee. Temptation. That we ask that. The righteousness of the christ.

Who would not sin for a moment. Think about that. And Matthew chapter 4, lord, willing of the lord's day and the last temptation. Refused a moment of sin. That we would refuse it to Because you can't know that everything is for you in the midst of your sinning. For the midst of your sinning, which, you know, is rebellion.

The super conquering comes when god makes us to hate our sin. More and more, in fact, Hebrews 12 gives us a A fairly whole picture then of the super conquering. You know, some of the, all these things are what he's referring to and he's writing to those obviously who haven't died yet and says, you haven't resisted to the shedding of your blood in the fighting against sin, He's urging them to press on.

And pursuing the holiness. Swing peace with all men. But especially the holiness without which we won't see the lord. He says, that's what your father is pursuing. That's one of the reasons for your suffering because he's treating you as true children. And he is going to perfect you because you're not just two children of a man, your true children of god.

And so you need holiness, so that you can see the lord Because, When you assemble week by week. Then you come not to sign cyani but to Zion, You're coming to. Join a congregation. From earth. By faith. For a moment. But a congregation that when you join the congregation, You have to be holy.

Every soul. In that church, is a soul of the just Made perfect. Indeed, the super concrete is not only that we would be perfected in grace that we would be made holy that we would be that we would enter into the heavenly Zion But the super conquering looks further ahead still To that inheritance that they have not yet.

Come into the one that hebrews 11 has just finished describing That god will not bring the resurrection until the whole number of those to whom that inheritance belongs. Have been gathered to him. Have been sanctified, have been made, holy And then all will come in to the inheritance together.

And jesus will be the firstborn among many brethren When there will be God, our father and there will be christ, our mediator And it will not just be the souls of the just made, perfect. It will be also the bodies of the just made glorious. This is what everything in our life, everything, in all of history, Is working towards.

So what shall we say? To these things. From last week verse 31.

A little closer to home than every one of your sufferings and every one of your difficulties. But one of your sorrows, Everyone of your challenges. What can you say? That don't recommend that you. Throw up your hands and say, well, We never know why. That's true. We just don't know the Smallest slice.

Of all of the good that god is doing. But when we said, oh never know why? That just doesn't do justice to that. Goodness. Unless you're in the psalm. 131 cents. I think it's 131. The contentedness. Not bothering yourself, troubling yourself with things too lofty. We do know a lot of wise, And they are wise that you should tell yourself.

When you suffer. When you sorrow. When you've repented of your sin. And, You are tempted to think that. Some. Lasting good has been lost as a result. You tell yourself this. These things happen. Or this thing happened. Because christ is being glorified. It happened because christ loves me. That happened because my father in heaven.

Is making me. Holy That happened because he is determined. To bring me at last, Together with all. Him, he has loved and the lord from before the world began. To bring me at last to be glorified with christ. Soul and body. In the resurrection. That's the why. Of everything.

Amen.