

I. Introduction and review.

II. Nothing can separate you from the love of Christ! v. 35-37

A. Christ loves you with a perfect, infinite, and unchanging love. v. 35a

1. His love for you is beyond measure. Eph. 3:17-19 John 15:13
2. He has loved you by giving Himself as a sacrifice for your sin. Eph. 5:25-27
3. Nothing can stop Jesus from loving you. He will not abandon His bride! Mt. 19:6
4. Your security is not in your love for Christ, but in His love for you. IJo. 4:10,17-19

B. His love will sustain you through every threat. v. 35b

1. Tribulation. 5:3 12:12 II Co. 4:17 John 16:33 Mt. 13:21
2. Distress. II Co. 6:4 12:10
3. Persecution. Mt. 5:10-12 13:21 Acts 8:1 II Co. 12:10 II Th. 1:4 He. 13:3 Lu. 21:16f
4. Famine. Mt. 24:7 II Co. 11:27 Rev. 6:8
5. Nakedness (extreme poverty). II Co. 11:27 Rev. 3:18 Mt. 25:36
6. Peril. II Co. 11:26
7. Sword (death). Acts 12:2 Heb. 11:36-40

C. Christ's love does not exempt you from trouble. v. 36 Ps. 44:22 Jo. 16:33a Acts 5:41

1. God's people have always suffered. Phil. 1:29 II Ti. 3:12 Acts 14:22 I Pe. 4:12-13
2. Paul knew of what he spoke. II Co. 11:23-29 12:10 6:4-5 I Co. 4:10-13
3. The Christians in Rome would face terrible suffering.
4. You may feel tempted to think God has abandoned you. Mt. 27:43,46
5. These hardships will never succeed in separating you from Christ's love. They will actually draw you closer to Him.
6. Are American Christians prepared to suffer?

D. We are more than conquerors (*Nike*). v. 37 John 16:33 I Co. 3:21-23 II Co. 4:17

1. The spiritual reality goes against every earthly appearance. II Ki. 6:15-17 Eph. 6:12 I Co. 1:26-29
2. In what sense do we conquer? 5:3-5 Rev. 2:7,11 I Jo. 5:4
 - a. Suffering brings us closer to God. II Co. 12:9-10 Ps. 119:71
 - b. God turns His enemies into His servants. Acts 9
 - c. God works through hardship to expand the gospel. Phil. 1:12f
 - d. God will deal with our enemies in the end. 16:20 II Th. 1:6,9
3. We only gain the victory through Christ, Who loved us. Rev. 12:11-12 Gal. 2:20 Phil. 4:13

III. Nothing shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ. v. 38-39

A. Not any mode of human existence: *Neither death nor life.* 14:8-9

1. Death is the ultimate separation.
 - a. All face this enemy. I Co. 15:22,26 Heb. 9:27.
 - b. Christ has overcome death. John 11:25-26 I Co. 15:26,55-57 Job
 - c. Our Shepherd leads us through the valley of death. Ps. 23:4 116:15
 - d. For the believer death is gain. Phil. 1:21-23 II Co. 5:8
2. Life threatens us with its allurements, dangers, and trials. I Jo. 2:15-17

B. Not any spiritual force: *Nor angels nor principalities.* Mt. 16:18

1. Is Paul also speaking of good angels here? Gal. 1:8

**2. Christ has triumphed over all. I Pe. 3:22 Eph. 1:21f Col. 2:15 Mt. 25:41 Jude 1:6
II Pe. 2:4**

3. You need not fear any spiritual forces. Eph. 6:12 I Pe. 5:8-9 Js. 4:7

C. Nothing at any time: *Nor things present nor things to come.*

1. Present threats. Mt. 6:34 10:30

2. Future uncertainties. Mt. 6:25f

3. Christ is lord of the present and the future. 8:28 Heb. 13:8

D. Nothing in space: *Nor height nor depth.* Ps. 139:7-12 Isa. 7:11 Phil. 2:9-11

E. *Nor powers* (angelic or human). Eph. 1:21 6:12 . Pr. 21:5 Ps. 2:1-6

F. *Nor any other created thing.*

1. In case you think he left anything out, Paul catches everything else here.

2. Can we separate ourselves from God's love in Christ? I John 4:19 Jo. 10:27-29

3. How do we explain those who appear to fall away? Mt. 7:23 13:21 I John. 2:19

4. Your sinful will is not strong enough to separate you from God's love

IV. Concluding applications.

A. Are you *fully persuaded* that you are saved?

1. Paul is *fully persuaded.* v. 38a about us (not just himself).

2. His confidence is based, not on our love for Christ, but Christ's love for us.

**3. God's love for us will sustain our love. I John 4:17-19 Phil. 1:6 II Ti. 1:12 2:13
I Th. 5:24 I Co. 1:8 I Pe. 1:3-5 Eph. 3:14-21**

B. When you realize your secure position in Christ, you will be as bold as a lion

C. It is only in Christ that you can know the love of God. Eph. 1:6-7 II Ti. 1:9 Jo. 14:6

Discussion Questions for Family Worship

1. How can you know Christ loves you?

2. How does Christ's love sustain you through tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, and sword?

3. Should you expect to suffer?

4. Do you think most American Christians are prepared to suffer?

5. In what sense are we super-conquerors?

6. Why can't death separate you from the love of Christ?

7. How can you be confident that nothing in the future will undermine your faith?

8. Is it possible for you to separate yourself from God's love? Why or why not?