



8/17/26

Romans 8:31-39

I need to remember when I read the letters of the New Testament that most of them were written to churches. The apostles never intended for me to understand scripture simply as an individual, but as part of the body of Christ... His church. So when I read about His love in Romans 8, I need to remember that it's not just about Him and me. It's about US... all of us who are in Him.

I remember going through one of those times when I was frustrated with Tim. I remember, at that time, going through this passage, especially vs. 31-34 and thinking how grateful I was to the Lord that He is for me and not against me. As clear as if He said it out loud, the Lord spoke to my heart with words that cut me to the core and challenged my heart to repent... the words were, "Yes, and that's true for Tim, too." God is for ALL His children... the church. I realize that I need to expand my understanding of the depth of His love, that He includes all His children, and I need to also. O Lord, help me to see this passage through the lens of us individually AND as Your church as a whole... so that there is no hole in my thinking.

Vs. 31-34 ~ "What then shall we say to these things?" What things?

- *That we are free from condemnation through Jesus (vs. 1-2)*
- *That Jesus fulfilled the righteous requirement of the law for us (vs. 3-4)*
- *That the Spirit gives us life and peace and the ability to overcome sin (vs. 3-15)*
- *That we are adopted by the Father, heirs of His kingdom (vs. 16-17)*
- *That our suffering is not in vain, and it's nothing compared to the glory that's coming (vs. 18-25)*
- *That the Holy Spirit intercedes for us and helps us in our weakness (vs. 26-27)*
- *That God works all things together for our good. He's predestined us, called us, justified us, and glorified us (vs. 28-30)*

What shall we say to all these things? We shall say... "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?" God does not withhold good from us. His Son is proof. God Himself PROVED that He is for us... over and over. He proved it by giving His own Son for us. He doesn't resent that He had to sacrifice His Son for us. The sacrifice of His Son is proof that He will go to any length to pour out the generosity of His love on us and give us everything we need.

His generous love that holds no grudges is for ALL OF US, all His kids. Together. If I wonder how much God is willing to bless me and all His people, I need only to look at the cross.

God not only doesn't hold a grudge against us, He is the one who justifies us. He doesn't accuse us. He acquits us of guilt. That's what it is to justify us... to declare us innocent. Even though we've horribly sinned against Him, He treats us as though we had the same perfect righteousness as Jesus. If I truly believed that all the time, how much unnecessary pain would I save myself??? The one who acquits me doesn't then condemn me. He's removed my guilt. He's removed the complete package of guilt from all His kids. Why? Because Jesus paid that debt for us. The same one who declares us innocent isn't going to turn around and condemn.

In fact, Jesus continues to intercede for us because we need it! For our sake, we need to be reminded that we've been forgiven, that the debt of our sin has been nailed to the cross. We will never face condemnation for our sins.

Vs. 35-37 ~ This is where it gets sticky. I want His love to mean that I will never face struggle. His love will prevent me from feeling uncomfortable. But that's not what it says... "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?" Well, I would really like it if God's love meant that I'm separated from all these things!!! But just as Jesus was so deeply loved by the Father and still faced suffering, I am so deeply loved by the Father and still face suffering... even to where I would say as they did in Psalm 44, "As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.'"

In Psalm 44 they were crying out in their circumstances, doing the very same thing I tend to do... they were accusing God of abandoning them in their suffering. Suffering does not mean that God doesn't love us. In our suffering God draws even closer to us.

And because He's so close, I can say, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." God's love sustains me so that I'm able to walk through suffering, anguish, the condemnation and accusation of other people, famine (emptiness), outside threats, and even the cutting and mocking by others.

I have this promise from the Lord, my Abba Father. He does not call the struggles good, but He does promise to work good through the struggles, and He promises that His love will sustain me through the struggles. His love will sustain US. His church. No one left out. No left alone.

No one left behind.

With the Lord's help, we are not only survivors, we are conquerors. How? Through His love. As we learn from Ephesians 3:14-19, His Spirit strengthens us to even understand His love, and His love fills us with all the fullness of God. By His Spirit and through His love, we are able to comprehend that our circumstances are not a measure of His love for us.

I remember a friend calling me years ago because she knew I was really hurt over something that I felt like the Lord was withholding from me. She was so gracious and listened so well. But when she knew I had poured my heart out to her, she lovingly said to me, "Jonna, I think right now, you're asking the wrong question. You're asking, "Does God really love me if He doesn't give me what I want?" And you need to ask, 'Do I still love God if He doesn't?'" She asked me that question over 20 years ago, and I have had to ask myself that question again and again throughout the years. God's love for His church does not fail. Our love for Him fails all the time. His love for us is unconditional. Our love for Him is so often very conditional. O Lord, please help us to see how the love You actually have for us is so much greater than the love we would like to define for you to have toward us.

Vs. 38-39 ~ "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The key words here are "in Christ Jesus our Lord." Nothing can separate us from the love of the Father if we are in Christ Jesus because we have confessed Him as Lord and Master of our lives, the one in charge of our feelings, emotions, desires, motives, and choices. That means we have to surrender these things to Him even when everything in us wants to hold them for ourselves. It's worth it to surrender everything to Him because He is FOR us, His children, His body, His church.

If we live, we live in His love.

If we die, we die in His love.

No angel of God WILL keep us from His love.

No evil ruler of this world CAN keep us from His love.

Nothing we're experiencing today is too big that His love can't handle it.

No what ifs of tomorrow are too big that His love can't cover it.

No power is greater than His power which is enmeshed with His love.

No height is higher than His love can reach.

No depth is deeper than His love will go to help us.

Nothing in all of creation is able to break the bonds of God's love for His people, His church, His kids, His body, His bride, His saints... through Jesus.

This is a love that surpasses knowledge... and it's real and true. Let all the body of Christ know this love of God. Let none of us think that we're excluded. And if God loves us like this, if He is FOR us, with such great power and love, does it really matter if anyone else is against us? Our

security, our comfort, our approval, our strength, our wisdom, our trust... is in the One who can't be dethroned, canceled, or voted out. I pray that every individual who makes up our church will be able to say, "Praise be to God! We are more than conquerors through Him who loves us!"

*Blessings,
Jonna*