

FBC Service Sunday August 17, 2025, Romans 8:35-39 Nothing Can Separate Us: The Unshakable Love of God

Intro Slide: Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of God Romans 8:35-39

In a world marked by broken relationships, betrayal, and abandonment, the promise of unwavering love feels almost too good to be true.

Yet, in Romans 8:38–39, the Apostle Paul declares a truth so profound, so liberating, that it has echoed through centuries:

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

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.”

Romans 8 begins with “**no condemnation**” and ends with “**no separation.**” Verses 38 and 39 stand out as a triumphant ring of assurance.

Paul’s words are not sentimental. They are not vague. They are precise, deliberate, and deeply pastoral. He’s writing to a church that knows persecution, that wrestles with suffering, and that needs to be reminded of the unshakable foundation of their faith: the love of God in Christ Jesus.

This chapter of Romans is often called the "Mount Everest" of Paul’s epistles—a towering peak of theological truth and spiritual encouragement. The chapter of chapters for the Christian believer.

And at its summit, we find verses 38 and 39: a declaration so bold, so sweeping, and so comforting, that it has sustained believers through centuries of trials, persecution, and doubt.

Paul doesn’t merely suggest that God’s love is strong—he declares with absolute conviction that **nothing can separate us from it.** It’s truth, grounded in the finished work of Christ.

Slide 1: A Declaration of Divine Love Romans 8:35

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ.

Slide 2: - The Conviction of the Apostle Romans 8:38

In the first four words, “*For I am convinced,*” we see Paul’s personal conviction.

In these confused days when no one seems to know what the truth is, we need to hear again from men like Paul, a “*reason for the hope that is in them.*”

Sometimes we must simply from our hearts share the reality of who Jesus is.

Sometimes we must convincingly share with others why we ourselves are fully convinced, and the difference he has made in our lives.

“Do you really believe what you’re saying? We hear your words. Now let’s see your heart.”

In Romans 8 Paul sets out his own personal testimony. Here he bares his heart to us.

“*For I am convinced*,” he says. The word means to be “fully and absolutely persuaded on the basis of evidence that cannot be denied.” What he means is this!

“I was sure about this yesterday.”

“I am totally convinced today.”

“By the grace of God, I will be even more certain tomorrow.”

Paul wrote this chapter to assure believers of their salvation, that their relationship with God was eternally secure.

If someone says to you, “why do you believe in the eternal security of the believer?” What is your answer?

Romans 8 unquestionably teaches that those whom God saves, he saves forever.”

That I think, is what Paul is saying in these last few verses. You can know for certain—you can be totally convinced—you can be sure beyond any question that when you die you are going to heaven.

You can be as convinced as Paul was because not only are your sins forgiven, not only is your name written in heaven, not only are you justified, not only is Christ interceding in heaven for you, not only are you more than a conqueror, but as a result of all that, you are eternally secure.

Like any good preacher, having laid out his arguments in great detail, Paul comes to the end of his message and switches to a personal testimony.

That’s the significance of the first four words of verse 38: “*For I am convinced*.” The argument is over. He now shares his personal testimony.

“I am convinced that nothing can separate us from the love of God.”

There is one word qualifier we need to notice —“Nothing can separate **us**.”

Who is the “**us**” of verse 38? The “**us**” refers to all those who are “in Christ Jesus” This promise applies to believers and only to believers. It’s not a general statement describing everyone in the world.

Those who know Jesus Christ through saving faith can claim this promise. There can be no separation from the love of God.

That’s the teaching of Romans 8:38-39. But then the question comes, “Paul, are you sure about that? You speak so confidently. How can you be so dogmatic?”

Slide 3: The Enemies of Separation Romans 8:38-39

Isn't there something somewhere that could possibly, somehow, somehow separate us from the love of God?" **Good question.** To answer it Paul sets forth 10 possible things that might separate us from the love of God.

Taken together, they encompass everything in the universe and every imaginable realm of existence.

Paul lists a series of forces that might seem capable of severing our connection to God. Let's examine each one.

Slide 4: Death or Life Romans 8:38

He begins with death. That makes sense because death is indeed the great separator. It separates us from our loved ones, our friends, our family members. Death cuts us off from everything we have known in this life. Death brings it all to a screeching halt.

More than that, death calls forth the greatest fears in life. What happens when we die? Where do we go? Do we "go" anywhere, or do we simply dissolve into nothingness?

Apart from Jesus Christ, there is no hope for those who face death. Without Jesus, they face death all alone. But for those who believe in Jesus, **death holds no fear.**

Jesus came so that we might know what is waiting beyond this life. ...and that we might know that there is life waiting beyond the grave.

You see in reality, death is NEVER the end, but rather it's just a comma – a pause – a doorway through which we all must travel.

And what waits on the other side is determined by the choices we make this side of that doorway.

There are going to be valleys in life for all of us. Some of us have many valleys, some few.

Some of us have deep valleys, some not so deep.

But somewhere in our own journey, we will all cross the valley of the shadow of death, its time may be unknown, but it's certain to come.

As we walk through that valley, we walk with Christ, or we walk alone.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies. And whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

Those are the words of the only person who ever rose from the dead. What does he mean *"will never die?"* If you know Jesus Christ, at the moment of your death, you will pass from this life into the next life—life eternal—where you will be forever with the Lord.

Death cannot separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Slide 5: But What About Life? Romans 8: 38

Many things in life separate us. War separates families. Poverty separates whole classes of people. Sickness separates us from our loved ones. Old age and geography separate us from our family and friends.

Sometimes our sin causes us to do stupid things that separate us from those around us.

So can life itself—with all its ups and downs—pull us away from God?

Take the worst that life can throw at you. It's no match for the love of God.

Not poverty, not sickness, not hatred, not rejection, not failed plans, not shattered dreams, not broken hearts, not old age, not ravaging disease, not financial reversal. **None of those things, as bad as they are, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.**

Slide 6: Angels or Demons Romans 8:38

Paul is asking something like this, “Can the angels even if they wanted to—**which they don’t**—separate us from the love of God?”

The answer is no. Not even the angels of God could interfere with the love of God. His love overcomes even his most powerful created beings.

The demons are another matter. Their entire purpose is evil and destructive.

Can they hurt the people of God? Yes. Can they harass the people of God? Yes.

Can they confuse and mislead the people of God? **Yes.** They discourage us, divide us, attack us, incite us, provoke us, and in every way oppress us. But that’s all they can do. **They are not omnipotent.**

Can they separate us from the love of God? No, but they can make us feel as if God doesn’t love us. They can do everything in their power to neuter our testimony and assurance of salvation by constantly reminding us of past sins and failures.

But despite all their efforts, they can never separate us from the love of God?

Slide 7: Present or Future Romans 8:38

Time itself cannot separate us. Whether it’s today’s troubles or tomorrow’s unknowns, God’s love spans every moment.

This is especially comforting in seasons of anxiety. We don’t need to fear what’s coming. God is already there.

Is there anything within the realm of time—any recorded event, any present occurrence, any future possibility—that can or could ever separate us from the love of God?

The answer once again is no. Time is powerless against believers.

Paul doesn't include the past because as believers, our past was forgiven the moment we trusted Christ.

But what about the present?

Is there something happening right now that could sever our relationship with God? **No**, Jesus is greater than our present circumstances.

Then Paul comes to the future. Is there anything looming beyond the horizon, any horrible event, some unforeseen emergency, some unexpected catastrophe, some yet-unknown failing, that could break the tie that binds us to God's love? **Again, the answer is no.**

Folks let's be clear on something. Terrible things sometimes happen to believers, but none of those things can separate us from the love of God.

There is nothing you are going through right now—no matter how terrible—that can separate you from the love of God.

But what about life beyond the grave? Does the protection of Jesus extend into the next life—or does this promise terminate with our physical death? What about the hereafter?

The very moment we die we pass into the personal presence of Jesus Christ. Wherever he is, in whatever spiritual state that might be, no matter what the outward circumstances are, if we are “with Christ,” we are safe.

Slide 8: Spiritual Powers Romans 8:38

Paul is telling us that even the so-called astrological powers cannot separate us from the love of God.

We might think of things like black magic, voodoo, witchcraft, astrology, wizardry, warlocks, New Age mystics, reincarnationists, people who claim to see auras, cast spells, read tarot cards, tell fortunes, conduct seances, and so on.

The word covers the whole waterfront of alleged (and real) spiritual powers. It involves the entire gamut of evil spiritual influences.

Here's the point Paul is making. Whatever Satan can think up, whatever his followers can concoct, whatever alleged spiritual forces might be arrayed against the people of God, **none of them can separate us from God's love.** No one can cast a spell and take away your salvation.

No one can chant or hum or read cards and destroy your relationship with Jesus.

No one can call on the spirits of dead people to somehow sabotage your Christian faith. **It can't happen.** Jesus is greater than all the spiritual powers of the universe.

Can any supernatural or miraculous act of Satan, somehow destroy our faith? **The answer is No.** Can any power you will ever encounter do that? **No.**

Slide 9: Height or Depth Romans 8:39

In this final matched pair, Paul turns to the realm of space—to **height and depth**. If we somehow went high enough, could we be separated from God? **No**. If we went low enough, could we be severed from God? **No**.

These are metaphors for extremes—emotional highs, spiritual lows, physical locations. Whether we're on the mountaintop or in the valley, God's love reaches us.

At this point we might think of Psalm 139:7-10.

“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there. If I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.”

Nothing as high as you can go. Nothing as low as you can go can separate you from the love of God.

Slide 10: Nor Anything Else Romans 8:39

This is Paul's final category. It's as if he has exhausted everything he can think of. He's covered all the possible categories, but just in case he's forgotten something, he says, *“Anything else in all creation.”*

He means, “Just in case there is some realm of existence that I haven't covered, I'm going to include it here.” In case I missed something, I'm putting it in this last category.

Is there any creature that can separate us? No.

Is there any created being that can separate us? No.

Is there anything in the universe? No.

If there is another universe that we know nothing about, wherever it is, and whatever it may contain, there is nothing in it that can separate us from God's love.

There is nothing that is or ever could be—**nothing you could dream or imagine**—that could separate a believer in Jesus from God's eternal love.

Slide 11: Can I Separate Myself from God's Love? Romans 8:39

This is our final point. Sometimes people say, “But what if I want to separate myself from God's love?

What if I decide I don't want to be saved any longer? What if I decide that I want to be un-saved, un-born again?

Can I take myself away from God's love?” **Good question. What does our text say?** It says, *“Any created thing.”* Are you a created being of God?

The answer is yes. Then you can't separate yourself from God's love.

Why? Because those whom God loves, He loves forever.

Those whom God saves, He saves forever. Those whom God justifies, He justifies forever.

If you by faith have come to Jesus Christ for salvation, He will never cast you out, and he will never allow you to cast yourself out.

Slide 12: A Settled Assurance Romans 8:38

Paul said, “I am convinced.” “I am persuaded, I am sure, and I am certain that these things are true. Nothing in all the universe can separate the people of God from the love of God.” What are the grounds of his persuasion?

It’s based squarely on the fact that God loves us and proved His love in the death of His Son. After Calvary, no one can ever doubt the greatness of God’s love. **The cross proves the love of God.**

Paul’s conviction is not based on emotion or circumstance. He personally encountered the risen Christ, endured shipwrecks, beatings, imprisonments, and betrayals—and through it all, he has found that God’s love never wavers.

This kind of assurance is available to every believer. It’s not only reserved for apostles or theologians or pastors or deacons. It comes from knowing Christ personally and trusting His promises deeply.

Paul thought through all the possibilities, and his firm, Spirit-led conclusion was this: **nothing can separate us from God’s love.**

Slide 13: The Final Word Is Love

We are loved—eternally, unconditionally, and unshakably.

We are loved with an everlasting love—a love that chose us, redeemed us, and will glorify us.

This is the love that will welcome us into glory, that will wipe every tear, that will never end.