

The Center Of It All

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November 11, 2014

Romans 8:31-39

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** 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? **33** Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. **34** Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? **36** As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** 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.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What has stood out most to you in Romans 6-8? What do you hope most to remember and practice?
2. What is the difference between being loved *unto* the death and resurrection of Jesus, and being loved *into* the death and resurrection of Jesus? Why are both important for Christian living?
3. Paul's list of trials in v. 35 was very real to him. These were the perils of following Christ for him personally. What would be included in your list? Where do you need the love of God to give you courage for the sake of obedience to God?
4. Because of Paul's repeated use of the word “we,” Chad mentioned that God's love is corporately experienced – that it is more like a web than a cord. Who is the “we” in your life as a man? Do you have a fellowship in which the love of God is at the center? How is it different from other types of fellowship?
5. In which aspects or moments of your life does God's love seem distant or even absent? How might you use this passage to preach the gospel to your own heart in those aspects or moments?