



Sermon Growth Guide

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Conquering Love | Romans 8:31-39

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Key Verse: Romans 8:38-39 – “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.”

Big Idea: What shall we say? God is for us! Our present is known and covered by the love of God. Our eternity is secure by Christ’s sacrifice.

Foundations

These final verses of Romans 8 are the culmination of the previous chapters and specifically Romans 5:1-11. Paul once again explains the Father, having given over sinners to their sins (Romans 1:28) in his mercy, his grace, and his love, gives over his son to death on a cross so that we might be justified. So that we, as believers in Christ, would not be condemned on the day of judgment. In Christ, we have utter assurance of our final destiny. Be at peace.

But, Paul is also preparing and reassuring these new believers and us that before we reach our heavenly home, our days on earth will not be easy. One wonders if Paul is now sharing a very personal testimony in 35-36. He’s been persecuted, hungry, beaten, and jailed. He’s been in danger and threatened by the sword. (Historians believe Paul was eventually killed by the sword in Rome.) He knows from experience that nothing can separate him from the love of Christ. He reminds his readers, God’s children suffer but not apart from God’s sovereignty, not apart from God’s good purpose. (v36 quoted from Psalm 44:22.) No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors. We not only conquer, we are blessed. Our sufferings bear the fruit of endurance, character, hope. By the deep love of God the Father, through the cross of Jesus, we can experience victorious living today and into eternity.

Understanding God’s Word

Pastor Tim built a spiritual tower using this love letter from God. The very foundation is knowing God is for you. As you climb from one floor to the next you come to understand that Jesus is our vindication and although Satan, earthly enemies, even your own conscious may condemn you, ultimately there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus. From the top of the tower we experience God’s all encompassing love.

Applying God’s Word

We live in the in-between. Our salvation is assured but, like all of God’s people, we will face the lure and distractions of our earthly life, the death of loved ones, the temptations of politics, the fear of an uncertain future for us or those we love. Consider how the conquering love of Jesus holds you in the in-between. How does your suffering form you into the likeness of Christ?

Witnessing God’s Word

On May 19 the Wall Street Journal published an article titled, China is Throwing Christians in Jail, but This Pastor Refuses to Back Down. Ezra Jin, a Fuller graduate, sits in a dank cell in China. His church is burgeoning despite the arrest. He is not defeated. He is flourishing just as Paul describes. In the middle of your struggles, with whom can you share your experience of God’s grace and conquering love.