

ROMANS SERIES EIGHTEEN
LOCKED INTO LOVE
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Romans 8:31-39

The Key Verse in this passage is Romans 8:35: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” The answer is Nothing—and No one! We are locked into God’s love—securely—forever.

Romans 8:31: What, then, shall we say in response to this?

What is “This”?

The previous eight chapters of Romans?

God’s plan for us that spans all eternity? Foreknowledge, Predestination, Calling, Justification and Glorification.

What is the Answer?

One response is deep gratitude!

Paul’s response is, “If God is for me, who can be against me?!”

Romans 8:35: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”

The nature of God’s love is *agape*. The four main Greek words for love are *agape*, *philos*, *eros* and *storge*. *Agape* is God’s divine love. *Agape* is sacrificial and unconditional. *Agape* never quits. *Agape* loves the unlovable.

“Will I make it? What about all the years between my justification and ultimate glorification? Is there a possibility that during my trials and difficulties and struggles with Satan that something could go wrong and cause me to forfeit or lose my salvation?”

No! Christians are not only *predestined* for glory, they are *preserved* for glory.

WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST?

● NOT GOD: He already has too much invested in us (*Romans 8:31-32*)!

Hebrews 12:2-3 gives a feel for what God went through when spared not His own Son.

If when we were sinners God gave us His best, now that we are God’s children, He will certainly give us all that we need.

● NOT OTHERS: God has already sealed His decision in “concrete” (*Romans 8:33*).

At the moment of Justification we are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

No one is going to bring up additional information that God does not already have that will cause Him to change His mind about us?

● NOT JESUS: He’s not condemning us; He’s praying for us (*Romans 8:34*).

Those who have yet to receive Christ personally are condemned already (John 3:16-18). Christians are no longer condemned.

Paul sees Christ not as the *Judge* of the early Biblical creeds but as the *Lover* of the souls of men and women.

Luke 22:31-32: *"Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."*

- NOT THE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE: Compared to Almighty God, their powers are inconsequential (Romans 8:35-39).

Once we come into the sphere of an eternal relationship with Christ, nothing in earth, the spirit realm or anywhere else can separate us from God and His love.

"More than conquerors" means to have assistance from Another who gives us the victory and who will never let us be defeated. The victory belongs to Christ and not to us.

- NOT EVEN I: God will spiritually murdering none of His children—no matter what we do! (Romans 8:31-39)

"But, I can jump out of His hand if I want to!" No, Jesus Christ indwells every believer. No one can jump away from that.

If we could turn away from Christ God would have to kill our spirits. However, after giving new birth to our inner-human spirit, He has no intention of snuffing it out.

- BUT: Some Christians seem to fall away from God's grace and lose their salvation.

Confusion: The Parable Of The Wheat And Tares: Matthew 13:24-30: "... because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them."

Presumption: The Parable Of The Sheep And The Goats: Matthew 25:31-26: "Depart from me I never knew you."

Abortion: The Parable Of The Soils: Matthew 13:1-23: "The one who received the seed ... with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time.... But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil produces a crop..." Matthew 7:16: "By their fruit you will recognize them."

"Backsliders" may look like they have fallen away, but they have not. Backsliders eventually return (Jeremiah 3:22).

The real test of Christianity is not how we start but how we finish. True Christians stand firm to the end (Mark 13:13). That is how we know they are Christians.

GOD WOULD NEVER AGREE TO DIVORCE US.

He is committed because of His love to draw wandering sheep back into His fold.

Even if we commit spiritual adultery against Him, His love will not allow Him to divorce us.

I want to lead you through a simple meditation which pictures the heart of the real God.