

“Love that None Can Sever”

Romans 8:35-37

July 18, 2021

I. Those Hostile to Our Faith Cannot Cut Us Off from Christ’s Love (8:35-36)

A. Nothing anyone can do to us can cut us off from Jesus’ love.

1. Not tribulations, distress, or persecution...
2. Not hunger, exposure, dangers, or even the sword.

2 Corinthians 11:27 - I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

2 Corinthians 11:26 - I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

B. Paul’s use of Psalm 44:

1. It reminds us that believers suffering due to their connection to the Lord is nothing new.

1 Peter 4:12 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

2. It also reminds us that sometimes even believers wonder if their suffering means God has abandoned them.

Psalm 44:23–24 - ²³ Arouse Yourself, why do You sleep, O Lord? Awake, do not reject us forever. ²⁴ Why do You hide Your face And forget our affliction and our oppression?

II. Christ’s Love Gives Us Victory Over Their Hostilities (8:37)

A. In the midst of apparent defeat, believers are actually gaining overwhelming victory.

B. Our suffering reveals not that we’ve been severed from Him but that we remain *connected* to Him.

Philippians 1:29–30 - For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

John 15:19–20 - ¹⁹ *“If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.”* ²⁰ *“Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”*

- C. Our suffering now will result in an even more glorious eternal future, a future that will be beyond the reach of those who hate us now.

1 Peter 4:13 - *to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.*

Romans 8:17 - *and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*

2 Corinthians 4:17 - *For our momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.*

- D. It’s not our faithfulness in trial that leads to our overwhelming victory; it’s Christ’s love for us that sees to that.