

Experience It

TEACHING NOTES

KEY VERSES

Romans 8:31-39

KEY THEMES

No condemnation in Christ Jesus
Life in the Spirit

 **The scope and depth of God's love, if experienced, will change our lives (Romans 8:31-39)**

The context of Romans: God's love demonstrated

 **No condemnation because you are in Christ (Romans 8:1)**

Romans 8:31-39

What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Life changing questions that prove God's love

The evidence of God's love, measured in the cost of that love

Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? (Romans 8:32)

There is no greater encouragement for growth than this truth of what God has done for us

Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. (Romans 8:33)



Romans 8:34

Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

The goodness of God leads to repentance, the love of God leads to relationship



Difficulties in my life demonstrate the absence of God's love



Romans 8:35-38

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

Experience the reality of God's perfect love

May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. (Ephesians 3:19)

No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:39)

Lesson objective: *To understand the depth of God's unconditional love*

PERSONAL STUDY**Study 1****Prepare your heart and mind**

Whenever we read God's Word we need to remember that one of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to lead us into all truth. Ask God's Spirit to guide you as you spend this time with Him.



Read Romans 8:31-39 from The Message translation

So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us!—is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture:

They kill us in cold blood because they hate you.

We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one.

None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

Paul clearly states that nothing can come between us and the love and security God offers. Yet we still waiver in this truth when we face difficult or challenging circumstances.

When have you have felt separated or distant from the love of God?

Often we feel judged or condemned by people around us. When do you usually feel this way?

What does this passage say about why we should never feel condemned?

Go back in this passage and underline or highlight the promises that should give us great confidence that God's love can never be removed from our lives and that He is always willing to help us walk through life in a victorious way.

Key verse

Put to memory Romans 8:38.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

Prayer time

Tell God how grateful you are for His never changing love and your secure position with Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of these truths when you face struggles in life and to give you the confidence in Christ to keep moving forward.

Study 2**Prepare your heart and mind**

Ask God to clear your mind of everything except the knowledge that He is present and wants to communicate His deep love for you. It might help to close your eyes and be reminded that God is present with you right now.



Read the following scriptures and write down the evidence of God's love for you.

John 3:16

1 John 4:9-10

Romans 5:8

Psalm 103:8 & 11

**Love is conditional**

Circumstances come along that tempt us to question if God loves us because we think things like, “how can someone love us if we haven’t got it all together?” Internally we tell ourselves, “I’m loved when I do the right thing and I’m unloved when I do something wrong.”

What circumstances might cause a person to question God’s love for them?

Finish the following statements:

God can’t possibly love me because I...

If God loved me, He would...

**Read Romans 8:38**

We are not always convinced that nothing can separate us from God’s love. But the truth stated in the first part of this verse comes with two absolutes: *nothing* and *ever*. *Nothing* can separate us *ever*! An absolute leaves no room for doubt. The absolute truth found in this verse is not dependent upon external conditions for existence. God’s love is absolute!

If God’s love is absolute then why do we doubt?

God's love is not dependent on if we love Him back. It's not dependent on if we pick up our cross and follow Jesus. It's not dependent on anything. His love for us stands alone - pure, perfect, and unwavering.

Look again at the answers that you inserted into the two statements above. Explain how your answers attempt to make God's love dependent on you or your circumstances.

Do you see your flawed thinking? Take a minute now to ask God to remove your faulty thinking replacing it with His truth.

Key verse

Continue working to memorize Romans 8:38. Attempt to write it out from memory in the space below.

Prayer time

Spend some time in prayer thanking God for His unconditional love. Ask Him to help replace the lies you believe with the truth that His love isn't dependent on anything from you. Thank Him for the freedom that His love brings.

PARENT GUIDE

Preparing to talk with your child

One of the greatest roles of a parent is to provide consistent love and security for your children. As they are growing up and learning about how life works, they need a place where they are always loved and accepted, even when they make bad choices.



Read Romans 8:31-39

As you read, make a list below of what God has done to show us His love and commitment to always be there for us.

With your child

Tell your child that you want to talk with them about God's love and how it doesn't depend on their behavior.

Ask your child if they have ever felt like mom or dad didn't love them and why.

Ask them if they know why they have their last name. After they have a chance to answer, explain to them that this means they are part of a family.

Explain that when we believe in what Jesus did for us by dying on a cross for our sins, we become part of God's family. God tells us that from that point forward we will always be loved by Him.



Read Romans 8:35 together

Explain that when they disobey mom or dad and get in trouble they are still your son or daughter. God wants us to know that nothing can take His love away from us. We will still face hard times in life, but that doesn't mean God doesn't love us anymore.

Parents, try to keep this truth in mind the next time your child or family faces some challenging circumstances. Take the opportunity to read this verse and remind them of the promise of God's love.

Prayer time

Pray with child, making sure to tell God how grateful you are for His never changing love. *(This models prayer and gratefulness to God.)*

ADDITIONAL STUDY**Read Romans 9-11****Observation**

(Who? When? Where? Why? What does it say? What do I notice?)

Interpretation

(What are the key themes or truths? What is the writer's intended meaning? What is the context? What questions do I have?)

Application

(How do I apply it? What does this mean for me?)