



Growth Group Curriculum
Week 6 – May 23, 2021 – Romans 8:31-39

Growth groups are one of the best and easiest ways to find community at church. In this time of the virus and social distancing, please meet safely outside or online. If your growth group would like to meet online or if you are aware of needs that the church can help fill, please let us know at connect@ljpres.org. Thank you for loving and caring for each other.

Today we wrap up our sermon series on Romans 8. In our section from last week the apostle Paul had started his crescendo about being predestined, called, justified and glorified. Paul continues this crescendo by now asking question after question, that will eventually bring home his point, that nothing will ever be able to separate believers from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ.

The reason there is no condemnation now is because Jesus has done what the Law of Moses could not do - justify us (8:3). God sent his Son to deal with sin so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled. As a result, Paul can boldly proclaim that God is for us. God is on our side and God stands behind us. Paul does not say there are no adversaries or enemies, but what he does say is, that they will not be victorious.

We know that God is for us because verse 32 tells us that God gave up his own son Jesus for us. There is nothing greater that God could have done. God has done the hardest thing and if God did not hold back his son for our sake, then certainly he will give us all things. We are justified and glorified! We are adopted as God's children, with the rights and privileges of the first-born son.

Though we lose our way, and we sin, we can rest in the assurance of knowing that God is the one who justifies. God has declared our innocence. Jesus Christ has been victorious over sin and death. We deserve to be declared guilty, but when God looks at us through the lens of Jesus Christ we are no longer condemned. Jesus is now seated at the right-hand side of God and intercedes on our behalf.

Paul has one more question for the Romans, in verse 35. Based on all of what he has said he asks rhetorically, "what shall separate us from the love of Christ?" Paul is not saying there are not moments when we feel as though we are distant or separated from Jesus. There are trials and struggles that will come our way, but Paul's resounding reminder is that nothing the world throws at us will ever be able to separate us from Jesus Christ.



Paul closes by reminding his listeners that in all things they are more than conquerors. The one who has loved us from the very beginning has given us an overwhelming victory. In the end, nothing happening currently, or anything that will happen in the future, will keep God from loving us. The promises that God had made to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus and now anyone, (Jew/Greek, Slave/Free, Male/Female) who follows Jesus, has received that promise of life and hope.

Exploring the Text

Romans 8:31-39;

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response 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, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered 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 convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ 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.

Questions

If you are answering these questions alone, we would urge you to try journaling. Rather than just pondering the answers, try writing them out along with a prayer to the Lord.

- 1) What are your plans for the summer?
- 2) Do you think there is a difference between God’s love for the world and God’s love for those who are in Jesus Christ?
- 3) According to our passage, what should you as a Christian do if called to endure some of the hard circumstances Paul lists?
- 4) Have you ever felt separated from the love of Christ? Why? What did that feel like?
- 5) In verses 35 & 36, Paul gives a list of hardships that Roman Christians could have possibly endured during the 1st century. How do you think the apostle Paul was able to stay so positive when he faced persecution and tribulation on a regular basis?
- 6) Paul says that we are more than conquerors because of the work of Jesus. What have we conquered? Do you think Paul has only one thing in mind or several things?
- 7) How have you seen God working out the promises, of verses 38-39, in your life? Is there a place in your life, right now, where you would like to know that God is working out his promises?
- 8) As we wrap up this series on Romans 8, scan through the chapter and reflect on one or two takeaways you had during this sermon series.

