

God's Amazing Love
Sermon August 2, 2020

Romans Chapter 8 is called the greatest chapter in the Bible. In our last three Sundays, we were focusing on this chapter.

We learned that we are children of God, and for this God loves us with unconditional love and cares for us constantly. We learned that God gives us His Holy Spirit, which will teach us what and how to pray, and transforms us to serve each other.

Also, we understood that all things work together for good to those who love God. In Romans, we learn that, if God is with us, nobody can be against us, nobody can harm us or cause us any damage, because God is our perfect protection. The messages from this chapter are teaching us about God's immeasurable love, and about our values, who we are, and whose we are.

As a human being, I have my fights against my human nature. My biggest enemy, the devil is all around me in many different ways. I know that my biggest enemy, the devil wants to destroy me, my self-esteem, and my faith. He also wants to destroy my engagement and my commitment to God I made when I accepted Jesus Christ in my life, and the devil will never give up separating me from God.

Today, in Romans 8:38-39, we learn about God's incomparable and immeasurable love. In these verses, Paul assures you and me, that no matter what, we still are children of God, and nothing can separate us from His love. We are who we are, including our weaknesses, but we still are children of God, not because we deserve to be, but because our Heavenly Father loves us so much as only a parent can love.

In my hand, there is a bill of \$100 CAN. What do you think about this bill? It is valuable; we can use it for many things. Now I crumple up this bill. What do you think about this piece of plastic? If I would step on it and would push it in the mud, what would you think about this bill? Would you still touch it? If I would give it to you, would you accept it? It is crumbled and dirty, but still has the value. No matter what I did to it, it did not decrease the value. It is still worth \$100 CAN.

Many times we are experiencing that we are crumbled, and dropped into the dirt by the foolish decisions we make. We feel that we are worthless and God should not love us. But these verses are telling us today that we are still children of God, and we will not lose our value in our Heavenly Father's eyes. Dirty or clean, crumpled, or finely creased, you are priceless to Him.

Nothing can separate us from God's love, and for this, although we don't deserve it, God cares for us constantly. God watches over us and keeps his angels around us to serve and to protect us.

It is such a comforting message that our eternal life in heaven, our relationship with God does not depend on our cleanness, our power, or efforts. It doesn't depend on our works or righteousness. It is rather the result of the love of Christ.

God's love is not like human love. It does not fail. It will endure forever. As Paul says in verse 39, nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Not even my weakness, not even my sin.

Do you like the commercials about super glue? Sometimes, if I am not careful enough, my fingers stick together and have to watch how to work with it. God's love holds better than Super Glue. It can endure even my mistakes. I am so happy that nothing can break God's love towards me and you. There is nothing that can separate us from God's love.

Sometimes people think that suffering is God's punishment. We are not exempt from suffering just because we are Christians but, in every situation, we can experience God's care and love.

This omnipotent, effective, protecting love does not spare us from calamities in this life but brings us safely to everlasting joy with God. We can have a certain and sure faith and we can be sure about God's love. "Neither death nor life" can separate us from God's love.

As we go through life, with all its troubles, nothing can separate us from God's love. Supernatural powers like demons and angels cannot separate us from God's love. The troubles and challenges, the Covid-19, and all the difficulties we are experiencing cannot separate us from God's love. There is no such huge power on earth or in heaven which could separate us from our heavenly Father. "Neither height nor depth" can separate you from God's love. You are never beyond the reach of his love. In case Paul's point is not clear, he states it very clearly in the last sentence of verse 39 where he in summary says, not "anything else in all creation" can separate us from God's love! Even if we die, we will not be separated from God's love. Death will bring us into Jesus' holy presence. If the Christian dies, they are not separated from God's love but brought into His presence.

So who can separate us from the love of Christ? The answer is clear: there is nothing, and no one, that can separate us from the love of God which is ours in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It is on word of mouth, that years ago, the Swiss theologian Karl Barth visited the United States. At a question and answer session, someone asked him, "Dr. Barth, what is the greatest thought that has ever gone through your mind?" The questioner probably expected some deep, incomprehensible answer, as if someone had asked Einstein to explain his theory of relativity. Barth thought about the question for a while and then replied, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

This love of Christ is a particular love for God's children, for those who embrace Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. You are part of God's love if Christ lives in you. Anyone who loves and serves Christ can say: "I am part of God's family". We also have to know that we are protected by this love forever no matter what. This is Christ's preserving and unchangeable love.

Every day, the Lord provides encouragement and resources for us. Even in small things, God shows us that He is with us. When we are down, He can find the way to send us the right words we need to hear: a call from a friend when we feel lonely, help with a task that we can't do alone,

or a hug and 'I love you' from one of our loved ones. God's love is truly sufficient to meet any need that we have.

God's love is unchangeable. He knows exactly what we are and loves us anyway. God's love is the only love that never falters and never fails. Take comfort in your faith and know that God truly loves you, now and forever. "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love." (1 John 4:7) In fact, He created us because He wanted other creatures in His image upon whom He could pour out His love and who would love Him in return. He also wanted that love to be voluntary, not forced, so He gave us freedom of choice, the ability to say yes or no in our relationship to Him.

1 John 4:8 describes one of God's primary attributes as love. "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." This verse does not define God as love; it describes who God is and all He does. He has ever done has been out of love. - God is love - that is for all people today.

Please, trust in God's Love. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 gives several descriptions of God's love: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hope, always perseveres. Love never fails."

Dear sisters and brother, even in those situations when we were breaking God's heart, our Heavenly Father continued to be patient with us and shows us mercy. In the Old Testament, we see that, even though the Israelites were rebellious, God still maintained His covenant relationships with them. After Jonah fled from the Lord, God delivered him from death through the big fish. When Saul was going against the Lord's people, the Lord's love stopped Saul and changed him into Paul, and make him an apostle. By looking at the faithfulness of God's love throughout history, we can fully trust that our Heavenly Father will continue to act with love and care in our lives.

Dear beloved, I can assure you, that our Saviour Jesus Christ will show us His love unconditionally. When Jesus walked with us on this earth, He healed the sick without the requirement of gratitude. He displayed humility even though He was King of Kings. He never discriminated. His love is the same today as it was in the past and will be the same always. It is such a comforting message, that nothing can separate us from His amazing love.

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so. The apostle Paul wants us not only to know intellectually but also to feel and to experience this great love. May we continue to rest in God's love. Amen