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# Love That Overcomes Separation (Nothing Can Separate Us)

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Love That Overcomes

Pastor Wil Nichols

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**Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ**

2116 Page Rd. Durham NC 27703

WEBSITE: [www.VictoriousPraise.org](http://www.VictoriousPraise.org)

EMAIL: [PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org](mailto:PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org), [Info@VictoriousPraise.org](mailto:Info@VictoriousPraise.org)

PHONE: (919) 957-7500

***Sermon: Love That Overcomes: Love That Overcomes Separation (Nothing Can Separate Us)***

***Lesson Text***

Romans 8:35–39 (KJV)<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. <sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***Introduction: From Defeat to Security***

Today is our series finale message! Throughout this series, Love That Overcomes, we have discovered that God's love is greater than the struggles that threaten our confidence, identity, and relationship with Him.

Our Journey Through the enemies of God's Love has included Fear, Shame, Rejection, Failure, and now Security.

The first four weeks confronted what makes us feel defeated or unloved. Week 5 declares that none of these things can separate us from God's love.

We began with Fear, learning that perfect love casts out fear. We confronted Shame, discovering that there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus. We addressed Rejection, understanding that rejection by people does not mean rejection by God. And last week, we confronted Failure, learning through Peter that our failures do not have to destroy our purpose.

Now we conclude with Security — the assurance that nothing can separate us from God's love.

Romans 8 is one of the most powerful chapters in the New Testament concerning the believer's security in Christ.

It begins with a declaration of no condemnation (Romans 8:1), moves to the assurance that all things work together for good (Romans 8:28), and concludes with the promise of no separation (Romans 8:39).

Paul asks in Romans 8:35, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?"

He does not deny that believers experience suffering. Instead, he declares that suffering cannot destroy our relationship with God.

The question is not whether we will experience trouble, but whether trouble can separate us from God's love.

Paul answers that question through three powerful truths we will discuss in the final sermon.

***Series and Sermon: Love That Overcomes: Love That Overcomes Separation (Nothing Can Separate Us)***

(The Pressures of Love, The Power of Love, The Permanence of Love)

**I. The Pressures of Love (Recognizing)**

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

The pressures we experience do not mean that God's love has departed from our lives.

Paul identifies seven forms of suffering that believers may experience: tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, and sword.

These represent the physical, emotional, and spiritual pressures of life. The Greek word translated separate is *chōrizō*, meaning to divide or put distance between.

Paul is asking whether any of these pressures can create a separation between believers and Christ. His answer is no!

**We must Recognize That Pressure Is Part of Life**

John 16:33 (KJV) In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Jesus never promised that following Him would eliminate trouble. He promised that we could overcome it through Him.

Sometimes we mistakenly interpret difficult circumstances as evidence that God has abandoned us. But the presence of trouble does not mean the absence of God.

**We must Recognize That Pressure Cannot Defeat God's Love**

Paul quotes Psalm 44:22 in verse 36 to demonstrate that even faithful believers experience suffering.

Consider the three Hebrew boys in Daniel 3. God did not prevent them from entering the fiery furnace, but He was present with them in the fire.

Isaiah 43:2 (KJV) When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee.

God does not always remove the pressure, but He promises His presence through it.

You may be under pressure in your family, finances, health, or relationships. But whatever you are facing, remember this: You may be pressed, but you have not been separated!

**II. The Power of Love (Remembering)**

Romans 8:37 (KJV) Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

God's love does more than help us survive our struggles; it gives us victory through Jesus Christ.

Paul moves from the pressures believers experience to the power that enables them to overcome.

The Greek word translated more than conquerors is *hypernikaō*, meaning to overwhelmingly conquer or achieve a surpassing victory.

Notice that Paul says, "In all these things."

He does not say we become conquerors only after our troubles disappear. He declares that we are more than conquerors even while experiencing them.

**We must first Remember That Victory Is Possible in the Battle**

Paul and Silas demonstrated this truth in Acts 16. They were beaten, imprisoned, and placed in stocks, yet they prayed and praised God at midnight.

Acts 16:25 (KJV) And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Their circumstances had not changed, but their confidence in God remained.

Victory is not always the absence of a battle. Sometimes victory is remaining faithful in the battle.

**We must next Remember That Victory Comes Through Christ**

Paul identifies the source of our victory: "Through him that loved us."

Our victory is not based upon our strength, abilities, or determination. It comes through Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57 (KJV) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Because Christ has conquered sin and death, no earthly defeat can overturn the ultimate victory He has secured for us.

You may experience disappointment, setbacks, and even temporary defeats. But none of these things can cancel the victory you have through Jesus Christ.

We are not conquerors because we never face battles. We are more than conquerors because Christ has already secured our victory!

**III. The Permanence of Love (Resting)**

Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God's love is not temporary or conditional upon our circumstances; it is an enduring promise secured through Jesus Christ.

Paul concludes with three powerful words: "For I am persuaded."

The Greek word *pepeismai* expresses a settled conviction. Paul is not hoping that God's love will remain. He is fully convinced that nothing in creation can separate believers from that love.

He includes death and life, spiritual powers, the present and future, height and depth, and finally anything else in creation.

His conclusion is unmistakable: nothing possesses the power to separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus.

### **We can Rest in God's Unchanging Love**

People change. Relationships change. Circumstances change. But God's love remains faithful.

Jeremiah 31:3 (KJV) Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

God originally spoke this promise to Israel, declaring His enduring covenant faithfulness.

And through Jesus Christ, believers can rest in the assurance of God's unfailing love.

Our confidence is not in the stability of our circumstances, but in the faithfulness of our Savior.

### **We can Rest in God's Eternal Security**

Jesus reinforces this assurance in John 10:28 (KJV) **And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.**

Our security rests in Christ's power to keep those who belong to Him.

Paul concludes Romans 8 by declaring that nothing in creation can separate us from God's love.

Preaching Application: Whatever tomorrow brings, you can face it with confidence.

Your circumstances may change, but God's love will remain.

You can rest in the love of God because what Christ has secured, nothing in creation can destroy!

### **Conclusion: I Am Persuaded!**

As we conclude this series, I want us to remember everything we have learned about God's love.

Fear tried to convince us that we were not safe.

Shame tried to convince us that we were not worthy.

Rejection tried to convince us that we were not wanted.

Failure tried to convince us that we were not useful.

But now, in this final message, Paul declares that none of these things can separate us from God's love!

Romans 8:38–39 (KJV) For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Our Final Declaration of being Fully Persuaded:**

When fear comes, I am persuaded!

When shame reminds me of my past, I am persuaded!

When rejection makes me feel unwanted, I am persuaded!

When failure makes me question my purpose, I am persuaded!

And when trouble makes me wonder whether God is still with me, I am persuaded!

Psalms 46:1 (KJV) God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Jude 24 (KJV) Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

My confidence is not merely that I am holding on to God. My confidence is that God is able to keep me!

And because He is keeping me: Fear cannot defeat me! Shame cannot define me! Rejection cannot determine my worth! Failure cannot destroy my purpose!

And nothing in creation can separate me from the love of God!

Romans 8:37 (KJV) Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

I am loved! I am secure! I am more than a conqueror! I can declare with confidence:

Nothing Can Separate Us!

# Love That Overcomes Separation (Nothing Can Separate Us)

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## Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Love That Overcomes Separation (Nothing Can Separate Us))

### Lesson Text

- **Primary Text: Romans 8:35–39**
- **Supporting Texts: John 10:27–29; Isaiah 43:1–2; 2 Corinthians 4:8–9**

### Sermon Outline

- **The Pressures of Love (Recognizing)**
- **The Power of Love (Remembering)**
- **The Permanence of Love (Resting)**

### Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

#### **I. Getting To Know “Me”**

1. The State Fair is in town! What's your favorite part of the fair... the food, rides, games, or something else?
2. How do you adjust to the changing weather from summer to fall? Do you welcome the cooler temperatures or wish summer would stick around a little longer?

#### **II. Into The Bible**

1. Read Romans 8:37 and discuss how being more than a conqueror through Christ is different from winning a battle in our own strength.
2. Read John 19:27-29. What is the difference between us trying to hold onto God, versus God holding onto us?

#### **III. Life Application**

1. When did God’s love carry you through a time you felt completely weak?
2. What mistake, circumstance or doubt are you allowing to carry more power than Christ’s promise that you will never perish? What intentional steps will you take this week to reinforce your faith to overcome these challenges?