



Romans 8:31-39 (ESV)

³¹ What then shall we say 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 with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, *"For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded 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 sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:31-39 (HCSB)

Romans 8:31-39 (HCSB)

³¹ What then are we to say about these things?

If God is for us, who is against us?

³² He did not even spare His own Son
but offered Him up for us all;

how will He not also with Him grant us everything?

³³ Who can bring an accusation against God's elect?
God is the One who justifies.

³⁴ Who is the one who condemns?

Christ Jesus is the One who died, but even more, has been raised;
He also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us.

³⁵ Who can separate us from the love of Christ?

Can affliction or anguish or persecution
or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

³⁶ As it is written: Because of You
we are being put to death all day long;
we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered.

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious
through Him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am persuaded that not even death or life,
angels or rulers, things present or things to come, [hostile] powers,

³⁹ height or depth, or any other created thing
will have the power to separate us
from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!

English Standard Version Bible - *Study Bible*¹

Romans 8:31-39

8:31-39 A joyous conclusion to the argument that Paul has carefully unfolded throughout the preceding chapters. The opposition of unbelievers and Satan will never succeed since **God is for us** ([v. 31](#)).

8:33 Satan, their enemies, or even their own consciences may bring charges against **God's elect**, but those who have come to faith in Christ will never be found guilty, for God declares them to be right before all the world at the divine tribunal.

8:34 Who is to condemn? The question posed in [v. 33](#) is repeated. Christians may rejoice with the certainty that they will never be condemned, for (1) Christ died for them and paid the full penalty for their sin; (2) he was raised, showing that his death was effective; (3) he now is seated triumphantly at God's right hand ([Ps. 110:1](#)); and (4) he intercedes for his people on the basis of his shed blood.

Interceding signifies effective intervention.

8:36 As it is written. The quotation from [Ps. 44:22](#) shows that the difficulties listed in [Rom. 8:35](#) do strike Christians. They are not exempted from suffering or even from **being killed**.

8:37 Christians are **more than conquerors**, because God turns everything—even suffering and death—into good.

8:38-39 For I am sure. Paul answers the question he raised in [v. 35](#) with absolute certainty that nothing can ever sever God's people from his **love... in Christ**. **Rulers** and **powers** here likely refer to angelic and demonic authorities.

1. Lane T. Dennis, ed., *ESV Study Bible, The: English Standard Version*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Bibles, 2008), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Romans 8".

Holman Christian Standard Bible - Study Bible²

Romans 8:31-39

8:31 **If God is for us** expresses not a hypothetical scenario, but a sure reality: God really is for us. This well summarizes the gospel, and serves as a concise summary of [3:21-8:30](#) (Cranfield, *Romans*, 1:434). OT believers had the same assurance: "I fear no danger, for You are with me" ([Ps 23:4](#); cp. [Ps 27:1](#)). "This I know: God is for me" ([Ps 56:9](#)). **Who is against us?** The opposition seems like a lot sometimes—the world, the flesh, Satan, secularists, false religions, our enemies—but God loves us and is sovereign. Yahweh is our Shepherd, Maker of heaven and earth!

8:32 In contrast to Abraham who was permitted to spare his only son, God did not **spare** His Son. If God did the greater (gave His Son), will He not do the lesser and give us all that is necessary for life and godliness? Of course He will.

8:33 Our accusers are numerous, but God the Judge has already pronounced the final verdict.

8:35-36 God's people have always faced persecutions and hardships, as vividly portrayed in the complaints of [Ps 44](#). Will such things **separate us from the love of Christ?**

8:37 We are **more than victorious** not by our ability but because God **loved us**.

8:38-39 Paul's "grand persuasion" (Gk *pepeismai*) is in the perfect tense, which indicates a past action that has ongoing impact. Having been **persuaded** (by God), he stood firm in the belief that nothing could separate him from the **love of God**. Jesus conquered death and Satan on the cross, ensuring that nothing can change God's love or purpose for us. We "are being protected by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time" ([1Pe 1:5](#)).

9-11 Many interpreters have been puzzled by this section of Romans. Anti-Jewish interpreters argue that God is finished with the Jews ([9:1-29](#)), while other interpreters view these chapters as a digression from Paul's exposition of the gospel. But K. H. Rengstorff of Germany recognized otherwise in 1949: "During the years of its sufferings, the Confessing Church learnt that [Romans 9-11](#) held the key to the understanding of the NT."

This is because these chapters help answer tough questions about how Jesus could be the Jewish Messiah and yet suffer rejection by the majority of Israel. Was the glory of the Davidic Messiah not supposed to excel the glory of David himself? Also, the Jewish expectation was that when Messiah came, Israel would be delivered from Gentile oppression and would hold priority over the nations. Since these things had not happened, many people assumed either that Jesus was not the promised Messiah or else that God had broken His promises to Israel. Furthermore, if Jesus really was Messiah and yet God had not delivered Israel, how could anyone trust Him to keep His gospel promises? And so the trustworthiness of God seemed to be on the line.

Paul overturned these doubts by answering from three perspectives: (1) from the viewpoint of divine sovereignty (chap. 9), (2) from human responsibility (chap. 10), and (3) from God's final purpose (chap. 11).

2. Jeremy Royal Howard, ed., HCSB Study Bible, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2010), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Romans 8".

NLT Life Application Study Bible³

Romans 8:31-39

8:31-34 Do you ever think that because you aren't good enough for God, he will not save you? Do you ever feel as if salvation is for everyone else but you? Then these verses are especially for you. If God gave his Son for you, he isn't going to hold back the gift of salvation! If Christ gave his life for you, he isn't going to turn around and condemn you! He will not withhold anything you need to live for him. The book of Romans is more than a theological explanation of God's redeeming grace—it is a letter of comfort and confidence addressed to you.

8:34 Paul says that Jesus is pleading for us in heaven. God has acquitted us and has removed our sin and guilt, so it is Satan, not God, who accuses us. When he does, Jesus, our advocate, sits at God's right hand to present our case. For more on the concept of Christ as our advocate, see the notes on [Hebrews 4:14; 4:15](#).

8:35, 36 These words were written to a church that would soon undergo terrible persecution. In just a few years, Paul's hypothetical situations would turn into painful realities. This passage reaffirms God's profound love for his people. No matter what happens to us, no matter where we are, we can never be separated from his love. Suffering should not drive us away from God but help us to identify with him and allow his love to heal us.

8:35-39 These verses contain one of the most comforting promises in all Scripture. Believers have always had to face hardships in many forms: persecution, illness, imprisonment, and even death. These sometimes cause them to fear that they have been abandoned by Christ. But Paul exclaims that it is *impossible* to be separated from Christ. His death for us is proof of his unconquerable love. Nothing can separate us from Christ's presence. God tells us how great his love is so that we will feel totally secure in him. If we believe these overwhelming assurances, we will not be afraid.

8:38 *Powers* are unseen forces of evil in the universe, forces like Satan and his fallen angels (see [Ephesians 6:12](#)). In Christ we are super-conquerors, and his love will protect us from any such forces.

3. *Life Application Study Bible*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1988), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 1909-1910.

Life Application Concise New Testament Commentary⁴

Romans 8:31-39

Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love / [8:31-39](#)

Alongside the theme of glory in the Christian life is the theme of victory. We get to be on the winning side, though our contribution is almost insignificant. We are protected by a God whose love cannot be measured and from which, as Paul will eloquently explain, absolutely nothing can separate us. Paul's questions fall into three categories: (1) Will opposition from people or Satan be too great ([8:31-32](#))? (2) Will we fail because of our tendency to sin ([8:33-34](#))? (3) Will we be overcome by difficult times ([8:35-39](#))?

[8:31-32](#) Satan and those under his power are **against us**, but in the end, God promises the victory. How much is God **for us**? So much that he **did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all**. The word for "spare" is the same word for "withheld," used in [Genesis 22:12](#), when God said to Abraham, **You have not withheld even your beloved son from me**.

Our major struggle with prayer is not that God doesn't answer. What upsets us is that he seldom answers in line with our plans or schedule. At those times we may think that God is intentionally withholding something from us. But God has already given us the greatest gift of all. Remembering God's gift will help us see that God is working for our good even when we can't immediately see it. God sacrificed his Son to save us; will he now invalidate that sacrifice by refusing to help and guide believers? No, instead, he promises to give us **everything else** to bring us to the ultimate goal—our sanctification and glorification.

[8:33-34](#) If God did not withhold his Son, and if God will give us everything to make us complete, **will God then accuse us**? Paul's emphatic answer is **no!** **God is the one who has given us right standing with himself**, and he is also the Judge who has already declared us "not guilty." So **who then will condemn us**? Will it be Jesus—for we surely have offended him. But **no**, it won't be him **for he is the one who died for us**. To condemn us would then make his death of no value. Jesus would not condemn those for whom he died. Instead, Jesus, who **was raised to life for us** is at God's side **pleading for us** in heaven (see also [Psalm 110:1](#); [Mark 12:35-37](#); [Hebrews 4:14-16](#)). The Spirit intercedes for us ([8:27](#)) and Christ intercedes for us. How much more advocacy do we need?

[8:35](#) The next questions help seal our assurance in God. Nothing can **separate** us from **Christ's love** for us. Then Paul lists several situations we might think could come between us and God. Paul knew from experience that these could not separate believers from God—he had already experienced them (see [2 Corinthians 11:23-28](#)). This means that the love of Christ doesn't separate us from these experiences, but that even in the most devastating of these, the love of Christ is with us.

[8:36](#) Paul quotes from [Psalm 44:22](#) to remind the believers that people who trust in God must expect to face persecution, even death. In that psalm, the poets made the specific point that difficulties and suffering were coming to people who had been faithful. Believers who suffer are the rule, not the exception.

4. Barton B. Bruce et al., *Life Application New Testament Commentary*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 2001), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 610-611.

[8:37](#) **No**, instead of being separated from Christ through all these things (the trials and hardships mentioned in [8:35](#)), we have **overwhelming victory**. This does not mean that we will be superheroes, but that our victory will be intensified by virtue of our union with Christ.

[8:38-39](#) Yes, we are secure in Christ—Paul was **convinced** of this, and so should we be. **Nothing can ever separate us from** God's **love** for us ([8:39](#)). In both **death** and the trials of **life** in this evil world, we will be in God's presence. No spiritual forces, such as **angels** or **demons**, are powerful enough to undo what God has done for us. Nothing in the sphere of time itself (**fears** and **worries**) can threaten us; nothing that can happen in the present and nothing that can happen in the future, such as persecution and hardship, would cause God to leave us. No **powers** that exist (Satan, human governments, etc.) are more powerful than God; they can have no effect on our relationship with him. Nothing in space, from **high above** or **in the deepest ocean**, can take us away from God's love. **Nothing in all creation** can take us away from God's love or thwart his purposes for us.

Paul's point is simple and compelling: once in his care, it is impossible to be separated from Christ. His death for us is proof of his unconquerable love. Nothing can stop his constant presence with us. God tells us how great his love is so that we will feel totally secure in him.

Study and Discussion Questions



More Than Conquerors - [Romans 8:28-39](#)

Topics: [Angels](#), [Demons](#), [Love](#), [Persecution](#), [Purpose](#), [Security](#), [Victory](#), [Zeal](#)

Open It

1. *How do you explain why bad things happen to nice people?
2. What causes people to lose their faith in God?

Explore It

3. *How does God work in all the situations and events of a person's life? ([8:28](#))
4. For whom does God promise to work all things for good? ([8:28](#))
5. Who is our ultimate example? ([8:29](#))
6. How does God seek to change His people? ([8:29](#))
7. What does God want each person to become? ([8:29](#))
8. What has God done to make people what He wants them to be? ([8:30](#))
9. What made Paul confident that God takes care of His people? ([8:31-32](#))
10. *Why should we feel confident that God is not against us or condemning us? ([8:31-34](#))
11. Where is Jesus Christ right now? ([8:34](#))
12. *What possible tragedies or hardships are unable to separate us from the love of Christ? ([8:35-39](#))
13. What kind of persecutions have God's people often faced? ([8:36](#))
14. How are God's people to respond to persecutions and tragedies? ([8:37](#))
15. What gives God's people the ability to respond in triumph to persecution? ([8:37](#))

Get It

16. How can God produce good results out of bad situations?
17. What is God's intention and plan for each Christian?
18. In what practical ways can each of us be like Christ?
19. How can we be sure God really loves us?
20. What can Christians expect God to do for them?
21. How important should the opinions of others be to a Christian?
22. *How can a person be sure that bad times aren't a signal of God's displeasure with him or her?
23. *What gives Christians confidence as they go through hard times?
24. In what situations do you need God's conquering power?
25. How have you experienced God's never-ending love in your life?

Apply It

26. *How can you commit your difficult circumstances to God this week?
27. How can you show trust in God to work out your circumstances for good?