

Leader's Guide

LESSON 15

Dr. Jerry Nelson

In response to the sermon on December 16th.

Romans 8:29-39 More Than Conquerors

Key Points

Understanding and experiencing God's love is fundamental to a growing, vibrant relationship with God. It is one of the most difficult concepts to grasp, for we are prone to evaluate love based on temporal blessings. In this passage, God reveals himself and the means by which we can readily identify his love:

- In his will in our lives
- In predestination, justification and glorification
- In the work of Jesus Christ
- In his promises of always acting in our best interest
- In his refusal to let anything separate us from his love

Our world often defines love by what we give and receive, especially this time of year. If someone loves us, they often express it through material means. The more we receive, the more loved we feel. This is one of the great distortions of our day.

Love is the language of relationship, and its expression takes on many forms. For sure, there is giving and receiving, but most of the time it is characterized by great sacrifice, for sacrifice is what truly touches our hearts to the point of transforming our lives. In this passage, God has revealed to us the means he uses to express his love to us. His sacrifice is great! O, that we may grasp the depth of his love, for knowing his love truly changes everything!

Personal Reflection

Some people define God's love on the basis of "blessing." If they are happy and relatively problem free, then they may feel loved by God. Conversely, if people have suffered greatly, they can feel that God does not love them. This passage helps us to again gain insight into the ways God uses to express his love (apart from our circumstances). Pray that the Spirit will reveal his love to your group in very personal ways this week.

Discussion Questions

1. What does Paul intend to communicate about our "assurance" by describing the progression of predestination, calling, justification and glorification? What does this reveal about God? How does this strengthen your relationship with God?
2. As we take a stand for God we will experience opposition. This can come in many forms: ridicule, abuse, discrimination, harassment, isolation. These are powerful influences that can have devastating ramifications. However, there is a greater power at work. (vs. 31: "If God is for us, who can be against us?") What helps us take God at his word, especially when opposition can leave us feeling defeated?
3. What is the logic of verse 32 and how does that add to our assurance?
4. Have you ever truly considered and thought about the cost to God of giving his Son for you? How often and with what depth of thought do you thank Him?
5. We can misinterpret vs. 32: "God will give us all things," believing that God will give us what we want. When he doesn't, we can be tempted with unbelief. What is God promising to give us in this verse? (*If God gave the supreme gift of his Son to save us, he will certainly also give whatever is necessary to bring to fulfillment the work begun at the cross.*¹)
6. Even though the world may attempt to bring charges against us and condemn us, we know that we stand justified before God through Christ's death, resurrection and intercession. How does this truth strengthen you in times of adversity?
7. When have we been tempted to think that we were separated from God?
8. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. No physical distance, relationship, suffering, demonic force, life or even death. God's love does not depend upon our actions. He loves us because He is love. Are there any circumstances Paul would exclude from this list? How does this assuring love impact your response to Him? In what ways does it enable you to love others?
9. "When speaking of "conquering," Paul is not describing our mental attitude toward life when we say or think we have life by the tail. So what are the "in all these things" of which we are conquerors and how are they conquered? (*verses 35-36 The things that have the appearance of death, that make trusting God look foolish, but in the end prove unable to separate us from God.*)

¹ NIV Study Bible