

Living in the Love of God

Romans 8:31-39

Looking Back

Many of us find ourselves living FOR the love of God rather than living IN the love of God. That difference may seem small, but in reality there is a chasm between the two. Romans 8 ends with one of the most lofty and beautiful descriptions of the love of God in the whole Bible. What we find is that God's love is better than we could have ever imagined. It's a love that seeks us, a love that secures us, and a love that sustains us.

Thinking It Through (agree/disagree/consider/contemplate)

"Nowhere in the annals of sacred literature do we find anything to match the power and beauty of this remarkable paean of praise." Mounce

"I have to kneel before the Father, put my ear against his chest and listen, without interruption, to the heartbeat of God. Then, and only then, can I say carefully and very gently what I hear. I know now that I have to speak from eternity into time, from the lasting joy into the passing realities of our short existence in this world, from the house of love into the houses of fear, from God's abode into the dwellings of human beings." Henri Nouwen

"Christian obedience should always be based on surrender to a person, not simply acceptance of an obligation. It is surrender to love, not submission to a duty." David Benner

Working It Out

1. Read Romans 8:31-39. What verse, as you read, encourages your heart the most right now? Why?
2. Paul asks 5 questions in response to what he has just said (Romans 8:1-30). What are the 5 questions?
3. According to the text, how are we more than conquerors? Why are we more than conquerors?
4. Is it significant that Paul does not say that God's love *keeps* us from these difficult things but rather gives us victory in them? Why?

Why is it problematic to believe that God's love keeps us from trouble and hardship?

5. Consider this statement – *God loves me, and God's love is enough.*

What would it look like for you to allow that thought to shape your perspective and how you live? What feelings and actions would flow from a heart that truly believes this?
