

INVINCIBLE LOVE Part 2: Secured Through the Cross

SCRIPTURE Romans 8:35-39

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.

SYNOPSIS Here the chief voice of the gospel is sounded—*God loves us*. One of the greatest chapters in Bible comes to its climactic close with one of the greatest themes in the Bible. It is profoundly personal and celebratory. The chapter that began with no condemnation ends with no separation. The gospel’s true affectionate colors burst through and crown all its doctrinal details. Its logic fortifies its love. Yet, love is the grand grounding of the gospel. And it is a prevailing love, not the love of an offer. God is revealed as giving Himself to us in love to secure an unconquerable, invulnerable, and indestructible communion with all who are in Christ. God loves eternally. God loves all in Christ now, and He will love them forever. It is an unstoppable, unshakable, and unassailable love. More than informing our heads, it is intended to induce our hearts. Our greatest comfort in life and death is founded on the invincible love of God in Christ Jesus.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

This discussion guide will explore the second of three aspects of God’s Invincible Love for all those who are in Christ:

- Superior to All Experiences (8:35-36)
- Secured through the Cross (8:37)

Material from this passage yet to be covered includes:

- Safe from all Potentials (8:38-39)

1. SECURED THROUGH THE CROSS (ROMANS 8:37)

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

God’s invincible love is secured through Christ and Him crucified and, to help us understand that, we can consider and reflect on four focal points in this verse:

- A. Confidence
- B. Circumstances
- C. Christ
- D. Cross

DISCUSSION GUIDE

A. CONFIDENCE

³⁷ No, in all these things **we are more than conquerors** through him who loved us.

The Greek word translated here as “conquerors” is actually not a noun, but a verb. Maintaining the verbal idea is instructive. When taken as a simple (transitive) verb, the phrase conveys the meaning, “we overwhelmingly conquer” (NAS). But when taken intransitively, it denotes the idea of being overwhelmingly victorious or “more than conquerors” (KJV, ESV). Either way, it emphasizes the totality of victory. This is captured in the following translations: “overwhelming victory is ours” (NLT) and “we have complete victory” (NET, GN) and “the one who loves us gives us an overwhelming victory in all these difficulties” (GW).

- How did Joshua and Caleb find confidence to face their adversaries? (Numbers 14:9)
- How did Hezekiah find confidence to battle his adversaries? (2 Chronicles 32:7-8)

- What does it mean to be “more than a conqueror”? Consider the exchange between Chrysostom and the Roman emperor (Appendix).
- Since nothing can separate us from the love of Christ, why can no amount of suffering, or even death (martyrdom), conquer one who is in Christ? (Philippians 1:21)
- How sure is a believer’s ultimate victory? (Romans 8:18, 28-30)

- Can hate conquer love? (Luke 23:33-34; Acts 7:59-60)
- Can love conquer hate? (1 Corinthians 15:8-9)
 - How can Christians conquer evil? (Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:21)
 - How are Christians able to love others? (1 John 4:19-21)
- How are Christians “more than conquerors”? Is it a matter of their love to Christ and others, or Christ’s love to them? How does this induce confidence?

B. CIRCUMSTANCES

³⁷ No, in all these things **we are more than conquerors** through him who loved us.

- What do “all these things” refer to? (Romans 8:35)
- How can being more than conquerors “in” all these things mean more than patient endurance in suffering? (Romans 8:28)
- How can Christians thrive under hardship or suffering? (2 Corinthians 2:14; 6:1-10; Philippians 4:11-13)

DISCUSSION GUIDE

C. CHRIST

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

Without Christ, we are not conquerors. Being more than conquerors is not owing to our own resolve, power, strength, or even our love for Christ, but is owing to Christ's love for us.

- How are Christians made more than conquerors *through* Christ? (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:19, 6:10)
- What has Christ done that makes Christians be more than conquerors *through* Him? (John 16:33; Colossians 2:15; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57)
- By being "more than conquerors through Him," how do Christians show the world the value of Christ? (Psalm 63:3; 2 Timothy 4:17)

D. CROSS

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

The tense of the verb "loved" indicates a specific point in the past when Christ showed His love for us.

- What specific act is this verse having us focus on regarding Christ's demonstration of His love toward us? (Romans 5:5-8)
- How is God's invincible love secured through the cross? (John 10:11, 27-30)

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHAT WILL YOU PERSONALLY APPLY FROM THIS PASSAGE?

HOW DOES THIS WEEK'S PASSAGE HELP US TO MAKE MUCH OF CHRIST?

APPENDIX

John Chrysostom (AD 347–407): When Chrysostom was brought before the Roman Emperor, who threatened him with banishment if he remained a Christian.

Chrysostom: "You cannot banish me for this world is my father's house."

Emperor: "I will take away your treasures."

Chrysostom: "No, but you cannot, for my treasure is in heaven and my heart is there also."

Emperor: "I will slay you!"

Chrysostom: "No, you cannot, for my life is hid with Christ in God."

Emperor: "But I will drive you away from man and you shall have no friend left."

Chrysostom: "No, you cannot, for I have a friend in heaven from whom you cannot separate me. I defy you; for there is nothing that you can do to hurt me."