

“For I am persuaded....” Romans Chapter 8 verse 38

Paul lists the things that he is persuaded are unable to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Do you ever feel that your place in God's love is fragile? Paul says that we can't be separated from it through death or life, angels or rulers, things present or things to come, or powers, or height or depth, or any other created thing.

That pretty much includes anything we can think of. So why do we sometimes feel insecure in God's love? I would guess that we are all too aware of our own failings. We know when we have slipped up a bit, not done what we should have done, recognised unchristian, unloving attitudes, dispositions and thoughts within ourselves, lacked belief and faith and just generally been “not good enough”. We may be fully prepared to believe that any of those other things would be unable to separate us from God's love, but what about us? Surely he loves us less when we fall short of the righteousness and faith he expects of us.

On top of that, we have all those preachers and teachers (and devotional writers) vehemently encouraging us to be mature and full of faith and knowledge of God, and it may be ok for them, but it doesn't seem to work so well for us.

I have two pieces of good news for you. Firstly, it doesn't always work for them as well as they'd like to think, either. As a teacher myself, I find myself falling into the trap of teaching things which may look very neat in theory but seem a bit more difficult in the complications of real life. I have to keep asking myself “This sounds great, but does my experience bear it out, and even if it works for me, would it automatically work like that for everyone else?”

Secondly, I think it is true that if God's love for us was conditional on our success, then I'm sure that he would be left with no one still in his love. John has a word of reassurance for us. He says “This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and will reassure hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows all things.” Knowing everything that there is to know about us better than we do ourselves, God still loves us. Why? Because the love of God from which even our imperfections cannot separate us is “in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

So once and for all, let's stop connecting God's love for us with our ability to merit it. We don't deserve it, but we have it anyway, because we are in Jesus, and Jesus does deserve it.

Prayer

Father, it is amazing to me that you should love me, given what I know about my failings. Thank you so much that you see me in the light of your Son Jesus, and I am in him if I put my faith and trust in him, and that for you to take your love from him would be unthinkable. In Jesus' name, amen.

All these devotionals can be found on our website inghamitechurch.org on the 'Resources' page. Click on the link to go there.