*(While this sermon was originally preached focusing on the love of God, it is equally true concerning the sovereign nature of God’s love, who is able to do what He says He will do.)*

**The love of God that secures the believer.**

This message is for the unbeliever; you will see what God has done so that you might put your faith in His Son Jesus Christ for salvation.

This message is for the believer; you will see what God has done already in your life and what the result of that activity should produce in this present life.

**Introduction:**

**Why do so many Christians have such a hard time with the pressures and stresses of life?**

I mean; we go to church,we read the Bible, we pray, we fellowship!

So then; why do the cares of this world still choke us?

**A proper understanding of God’s activity and the result of that activity will greatly help**

**every believer in the stresses of life.**

But simply knowing more about God is dangerous, if you do not get to know God better. Going to church, Bible study, prayer, etc. can all become rituals. Knowledge alone will raise pride and produce trouble. KNOWING God better will produce humility and a greater love for Him. It will keep all of life’s circumstances in proper proportion.

Today we will get to know more about God as expressed through His love, BUT do not go from here with only this knowledge. During the week, I pray that you will be mindful of our need to get to know Him more. And many times it is through hardships that we truly do just that.

**Read -** Romans 8:31-39

**(Q)** **What is love?**

Hollywood and Secular America says:

- Love is complete acceptance of the opinions of others, except for those who believe in absolutes.

- Love is encouraging others in their decisions, especially if their decision is what they really believe in.

- Love is what you feel.

- Love has lost all meaning. It is seen in the way we use the word. “I love pizza. I love my car. I love to play football. I love my wife. I love God.”

**\*\***Unfortunately the believer has carried that idea into the realm of his life before God.

We may not admit that with our minds, but we declare it with our lives.

Man’s love God’s love

conditional unconditional

aimless purposeful

fickle everlasting

varied (different opinions) solid (His truth)

**(A) We will see that love IS defined by who God is and what he does.** (I John 4:7-21; Romans 8:31-39)

- God is love. (I John 4:7-21)

- God has shown us his love through his son. (Romans 5:7-8)

-SO, how does Romans 8:31-39 show us this love?

**Background Information (context):**

Romans 1 - 3a ; Paul has declared plainly that all men are sinners under the wrath of God. They suppress the truth, are given over to more sin, and continually fall short of God’s glory.

Romans 3b- 4 ; Paul has laid the foundation of being justified by faith alone; not by works, circumcision, or obeying the law.

Romans 5 ; A person is either represented by Adam which leads to death. Or a person is represented by Christ which leads to life.

Romans 6 ; The believer should not have a lifestyle of sin and should not even sin once because of that union with Christ.

Romans 7 ; BUT the fact is that we will sin. Because we live in this body of flesh.

Romans 8a ; BUT our lives can be lived in victory through the power of the Holy Spirit who indwells us and because of God’s activity of securing the believer.

**Therefore!**

What shall we say to these things?

based on the fact of our sinfulness, we deserve death.

based on the fact of being justified by faith, we have life.

**4 QUESTIONS:**

**I. Since God is for us, then who is against us? (8:31-32)**

**A. Who is against us?**

**1. The devil** - steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10) devouring like a lion (1 Pe 5:8)

**2. Sin** - has a paycheck waiting for those who obey it (Rom 6:23)

**3. Others (believers and unbelievers)**  -deceit, power, selfishness (Ti.1:9,2:8)

**4. Our flesh -** Romans 7

**B. God is for us.**

**1. He predestined, called, justified, and will glorify us. (8:30)**

\*\*Think about it! The God who created the heavens and the earth and who wrote down the rule book that governs this world and the things to come, the one who holds this world together by the power of His word; if for you.

**2. Proof - He did not spare his own Son.**

**a. He gave him in our place.**

**b. He will give us all that is necessary for life and death.**

**II. Who will bring a charge against? (8:33)**

**A. Who** **will bring a charge?**

**1. The devil -** accuser of the brothers (Rev. 12:10)

**2. Sin -** sin can be obeyed (Rom. 6:16)

**3. Others -** will others be able to bring a charge against us because of our failure to love them as God commands?

**4. Our flesh -** Romans 14

**B. We are the chosen of God.**

**C. God is our justifier.**

\*\*Illustration of courtroom. The state of Missouri takes us to court for a violation. The prosecuting attorney brings a charge against us. We are accused of something. Then the judge is about to give his verdict. Then just as he is about to condemn us; we read the next verse.

**III. Who will condemn us? (8:34)**

**A. Who will try to condemn us?**

**1. The devil -**

**2. Sin - Romans 7:11**

**3. Others -**

**4. Our flesh -**

**B. Christ continually intercedes for us.**

**1. Proof of his authority to do so-**

**a. Christ died**

**b. Christ was raised**

**c. Christ is sitting at the right hand of the Almighty Judge**

\*\*\* Many will try to accuse you and then to pass a judgement against you, but remember that the resurrected Christ is interceding for you. Note also, 8:26-27, that the Spirit of God also intercedes for us.

**\*\*\***When you consider what God has done; He gave his son, raised him, and is now interceding for us -Then you must conclude that no one or createdthing can take us away from Him.

**IV. Who will separate us from the love of God? (8:35-39)**

The world would have us believe that everyone will be in heaven, because God is love.

**The truth is - even the unbeliever will never be separated from God.**

**-** That is, the unbeliever will always be faced with the wrath of God for eternity.

**A. Who will try to separate us?**

**1. The devil**

**2. Sin**

**3. Others**

**4. Our flesh**

**B. Circumstances will continually try to tell us that we are separated from God.**

\*\*Many see the love that is exhibited by the world. People see others fail in the activity of love and then use that perspective in the realm of God.

**1. Tribulation does not indicate our being separated from God.**

**\*\***Guard duty - the day was gloomy and cloudy, I looked up and saw the clouds, and I felt separated from the son. But if I was truly separated from the son, then there would be no light. Truly I was cold, but there was still light. Just because there are clouds in our life, that doesn’t mean that the son is gone.

**a. It is rather an assertion of the truth of God’s word.**

1) we live in a sin scarred world

2) that world will hurt us

3) that world will also persecute us as we follow Christ

**2. Stresses of life / Cares of the world will not separate us.**

**C. BUT through these hard circumstances...**

**1. we will triumph glorious OR**

**2. we will be more that conquerors**

**\*\***a conqueror is one who is victorious, BUT only after the battle. Only after going through long miles of marching, preparing for and participating in war, fighting and being fought against can one be called a conqueror.

**3. How are we to conquer?**

**a. through the one who loved us.**

**CONCLUSION:**

**We can be convinced or have fixed in our minds and hearts that nothing can separate us from the love of God who loved us and secures us.**

We have great difficulties in our lives. And it is impossible for them to separate us from God’s love.

BUT my question for you is this…

We more often in our lives have little struggles and stresses.

Can those little things separate us from Him?

NO! Because God is sovereign, He is able to save and keep us secure.