



# Design: The Kind of Love I Need

*"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?... shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:35,39)*

We are all familiar with human love. There is "puppy" love, grand-parent love, "first" love, a love for the arts, a love of chocolate, and much more. We have all kinds of friends ... "fair-weather" friends, "long-distance" friends, "new" friends, "old" friends, "former" friends, "close" friends. This is human love, and human love is fickle, sporadic, temporary, and conditional. Others may love you because: you are cute, cuddly and adorable, you are rich, you are fun to be around, you are family (and they have to love you).

God's Love is Deep! God loves you simply because He **wants** to love you ... He **chose** to love you ... He **decided** to love you. God loves you because "God is Love" (1 John 4:16). Listen to what God told Israel (who would have been difficult for even the most loving of us to love) – "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a

mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt." (Deuteronomy 7:7-8)

We cannot influence God's love, because God is Love. Jesus did not go to the cross because of any love we had for Him ... or any influence we placed on Him. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8). Jesus must have really loved us to do what He did for us, because, our sins put Him there.

We look at some people ... they have money, a good job, good health, live a good life, have a good family and marriage. We think, "God must really love them ... look at how much He has blessed them!" Or, we look at others ... they have problems, are sick, poor, have lost their job, or are plagued with family or marital problems. We think, "God must not really love them ... look at all the problems they have!"

Nonsense! Forget those thoughts. Circumstances have nothing to do with God's love. When everything seems to be going wrong, God still loves you. When everything seems to be going right, God still loves you. If you want a gauge of God's love ... a yardstick to measure His love ... do not look at circumstances, look at the cross! THIS IS THE KIND OF LOVE YOU NEED!

In our text, Apostle Paul poses a question that has a seemingly obvious answer. He asks, "Can



anything ever separate us from Christ's love?" For me, the answer is obvious! "No! Nothing can ever separate me from God's incredible love." Not all people walk with confidence in God's love because they compare it to the human love found in our present sin condition. This kind of human love is based on feelings, it is based on actions, and it is based on performance, or in some cases the lack of those things. What we learn in our text is that God's love does not come and go based on our behaviour. We may do things that grieve the heart of the Father, but that is not the basis of His love.

God does not just have a loving disposition for those who can do something right or at least not do something wrong. God turned on His spout of love, and He has never turned it off. It is true, there are times when we do not feel very lovable, especially after falling and failing in some area of our walk with Him. However, I want to assure you today that the answer to the question Paul asked in our text should have a very easy answer. "Nothing can separate us from God's love – Absolutely nothing!"

Ponder these four observations of what the Bible says about God's love. **First – God's love is constant.** It does not change; it knows no ups or downs. This is very different from human love. As humans, we may talk about falling "in love" or falling "out of love," but when it comes to God's love, it is unchanging. He will always love us no matter what we do, no matter how far we may stray.

**The second observation about God's love in relationship to us is that it is absolute.** It is never dependent upon our response. It is His

nature to love us without fluctuation. Contrasting this is the fact that so much of our love is dependent upon the response of the one we love. Parents will often say to children, "If you are a good boy, daddy will love you," or "Make our family proud by your achievements," (meaning, "And then we will love you.") Many people today do not really understand the nature of God's love because the love of their parents has been so conditional.

**The third observation about God's love is that it is unrelenting.** God's love never stops seeking us. Just as we cannot lose the love of God by our sinful behavior, we cannot run away from it. Psalm 139, asks, "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?" And the obvious answer is, "Nowhere!"

**Finally, God's love for us is undeserved and unmerited.** We do not deserve God's love; it is a gift to us. The Bible says that "God showed how much he loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love – not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins" (1 John 4: 9-10). I do not know about you, but THIS IS THE KIND OF LOVE THAT I NEED. SHALOM!

