

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – June 18, 2023

Theme: Servant Leadership Topic: God's Unbreakable Love

Main Texts: Romans 8:18 - 39

Key verse: Romans 8:38-39 – *“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: The Bible abounds with evidence of God's love for His creation. John 3:16 is a classic verse about God's love: *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...”* Romans 5:8 echoes similar sentiment, *“but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* In both verses we see God's love in action, in the sacrifice of something so precious to Him - His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. But God's love goes beyond what He does, '... God is love' (1 John 4:8).

1. (a) **Since love is as strong as death, its jealousy as enduring as the grave. Love flashes like fire, the brightest kind of flame.** (Songs of Songs 8:6), What idea of God and His love do you get from 1 John 4:8, 16? (b) **God demonstrated His love for us in sending His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ to die for us. In what other ways does God reveal His love for us in Romans 8:26-30?** (c) **How do the truths in 1a and 1b above help our understanding of the unbreakable nature of God's love for us?**

Our text opens with how what believers suffer now cannot compare with the glory which awaits them. And in between those thoughts of future glory, is this almost frightening declaration in that persecutions, hunger, danger, death, angels, principalities, powers, heights nor depths can separate us from God's love. (Romans 8:18, 35, 38-39). Our topic speaks of God's unbreakable love. Unbreakable means to be indestructible, durable, everlasting. This is how God's love is to us. Lamentations 3:22-23 adds another dimension of the nature of God's love saying, *“the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning ...”* (ESV). His love cannot be exhausted; it cannot be diminished. It is endless! (1 Corinthians 13:8).

2. **Not long after the Epistle to the Romans was written, the Church in Rome came under severe persecution under Emperor Nero. Believers in Rome were thrown into the arena to face the lion; some had their property confiscated. Others were tortured for their faith. (a) In the context of God's unbreakable love, how does being persecuted, losing our job, or investment, or sickness, or death of a loved one, injustice, work out for our good? (See Romans 8:28) (b) How is God's love exemplified when these 'bad' things happen in our lives? (c) How does this affect your definition of God's love and how should this change our attitude and our outlook in life?**

Consider the children of Israel who rebelled against God repeatedly. And still, God would have mercy upon them and would forgive their sins. That same love is extended to us His children. The fact is that God made the choice ahead of time to set His love on us (vs 29 – 30). In His sovereignty, He chose us to bring us into His family; seen as innocent, justified by Jesus Christ. One author captured it succinctly when he wrote, *‘The only love that won't disappoint you is the one you can't change, can't be lost, not based on the ups and downs of life, or how well you live. It is something even death cannot take away. God's love is the only love like that.’* Hallelujah! The Greek word for God's love is *agape*. And it means that God's love is unconditional. It is supreme. No matter what you do God will still love you. This doesn't give us an excuse to sin. Because our fellowship with Christ suffers if we sin, but He doesn't stop loving us. His love is greater than anything else in creation. Our hope is sure because God's love never changes.

3. (a) **We often associate good things as God's favor and bad things as His displeasure. How do Romans 8:38-39 address this belief? (b) We acknowledge that 'nothing' can separate us from God's love. How does this align with the popular notion that when we sin, we fall out of God's love? (c) If you too are persuaded about the things that Paul lays out in verse 38-39, what effect will this knowledge have on your life and how you respond to issues in your life?**

Prayer: *Dear Father, thank You for Your steadfast love towards me. I scarcely can take in the height, the breadth, and the depth of it! Help me to rest in the security of Your unbreakable love and to live in the earnest hope of resurrection on that last day, that I might spend eternity with You, In Jesus Name, Amen.*