

Life in the Spirit—Together Forever
Study Questions
Romans 8:35-39

1. **[Romans 8:35]** Which of these things can separate us from the love of God: Politics, the press, pestilence, leaders, rights or the infringement thereof, or money or the lack thereof? If we are upset about these things, it is because something we hold dear is being threatened. Does God need defending? Paul (and others throughout the bible) said our relationship to God doesn't... Consider that perhaps our egos or coping mechanisms may be at stake. Some feel the need to defend certain attitudes:

“I’m right”

“I don’t want anyone to think less of me”

“I’m a good person”

“I’m not important”

...or replace “I” in these with “My family / party / country”.

Are there other attitudes that can contribute to the sorts of reactions the world can get out of people?

Which of these attitudes might color your reactions (even a little)?

2. **[Romans 8:36-37]** Aren’t these odd verses? They refer to Psalm 44, which basically asks God why he seems to have abandoned a people who have not abandoned Him. But the Psalmists and Paul never lose faith in God’s love. Instead, Paul says that through Jesus we are more than conquerors in anything we endure.

How does that work? If someone puts aside their attitudes and offer themselves fully to Him, how can they conquer through any sort of offense or suffering? Have you seen this happen? If so, explain.

3. **[Romans 8:38-39]** Again, nothing can separate you from God’s love. But wait! Nothing can separate that fellow believer who offends you from God’s love, either. You are eternally joined together by God’s love! You need to take that fellow believer out of whatever mental box you’ve put them in and deal with them as your brother or sister.

What boxes have you put people into in *your* mind? What can you do to listen more deeply—*listen to their hearts*, the reasons for their words—so you can learn, lament, repent, and ultimately love?

