

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Romans 8:35-39
August 16, 2020

Christian, chill! You are totally secure in Christ's love.

- Feeling safe and secure plays an important role in our mental and physical well being. Worry, fear, doubt, and anxiety preoccupy those living in an insecure environment. It wears people down, taking a toll on life.
- The insecurity of the current pandemic is taking a toll on marriages, homes, and children. Knowing you are loved, are safe, have a home, food, and predictability/normality all provide a solid foundation to build on and grow.
- That's *circumstantial security*. If the circumstances aren't all just right your security and your well being are eroded. **Security dependent on circumstances.**
- God offers something far superior! **Security dependent on Christ** no matter what the circumstances. Yes, **no matter what!**

Christian, chill! You are totally secure in Christ's love.

³⁵ *What will separate us from the love of Christ?...*

Nothing *will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

❖ Understand what it means to be *in the love of Christ*

- A bond more secure than Super Glue
 - ◆ ignore the package warning - the Super Glue bond between fingers is secure
 - Force can't separate. (warm water, followed by oils or butter will)
- Christ's **bond of care** is stronger than anything.
 - ◆ ³⁴ **Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one who is at God's right hand and who is also interceding for us!**
 - ◆ Christ's love **acts!** It's **not** a wimpy bond of fond feelings toward us.
 - ◆ Jesus' **total** devotion: cross, grave, Easter, ongoing divine defense attorney
 - Previously: our sins separated us. Now: removed, forgiven, declared clean
 - The gospel has drawn us close to Jesus, **securely** bound to him.
 - ◆ *At God's right hand* - position of Supreme power, ruling all for our good
- Jesus' purpose: *bond* us to him, in fellowship, we are his special possession
 - ◆ In love he's given us his personal pledge in Baptism. Secured with the Spirit.
 - *I am your God and Lord. You are my own dear child.*
 - So all know: he wrote his name on us - *Beloved of the Triune God*
 - ◆ Under his Lordship we have protection, provision, love, value, prosperity
 - ◆ Mistreat a US Citizen - USA acts. God's protection of his citizens - far greater
 - With an active, almighty, all knowing, care of eternal love.
 - ◆ That's security! *Security dependent on Christ*, who defeated Satan and death
 - ◆ **Nothing** can remove us from his sphere of security and care.

❖ Expect your enemies to use circumstances to make you *feel insecure*.

*For your sake we are being put to death all day long.
We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.*

- Our enemies play off our instinct for self-preservation
 - ◆ God created us to care for ourselves, to protect his gift of life
 - ◆ Sin perverts self-preservation into **selfish-preservation**
 - From this our sinful nature assumes *it's all on me to take care of me*.
 - Self-reliant: *I need to secure my own security*.
- Our enemies want us to **doubt** our Christ-reliance, **assuming** self-reliance
 - ◆ The list is 2,000 years old, but as fresh as today.
 - ◆ **trouble - distress - persecution - famine - nakedness - danger - sword**
 - ◆ **Trouble:** feeling pressure - rubs, irritations, aches & pains, weary us
 - ◆ **Distress:** inward from outside personal matters - financial, relationships, sick
 - ◆ **persecution** leads to **famine - nakedness - danger - sword** (guns)
 - Nigerian farmers - Christians, driven from their homes, crops, clothes on their back. Homeless, hungry, ill clothed. Assaulted, robbed, raped. Shot - killed
 - ◆ **The goal of our enemies:** *Look! You are **not secure** in Christ's love.*
 - Persecuted Christians surprise their persecutors with contentment, joy, hope, forgiveness and love - because they're secure and at peace in Christ's love.
 - **God's goal:** secure us now in Christ's security, so the enemies' attempts backfire, turning us to Christ's love, more tightly bonded to him.

❖ Through Christ we are *hyper-victorious*. Now that's secure!

³⁷ *No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him who loved us.*

- Literally: *hyper-victorious* = *super-conquerors, completely utterly prevail*
- Not because we're Hercules, Superman or Superwoman!
- But because we are bonded to Christ, our Champion, the Hyper-Victor.
 - ◆ **death nor life:** threat of death or death itself; life: long, easy or challenging
 - ◆ **angels nor rulers:** Christ's mighty allies or demonic or earthly rulers
 - ◆ **things present nor things to come:** demands of today, future fears/temptations
 - ◆ **powerful forces:** natural, man-made, faux-miracles
 - ◆ **height nor depth:** mountain or space; deep valley or ocean
 - ◆ **anything else in creation:** vast, known and unknown threats - viruses!
 - ◆ **will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
 - Christ is everywhere - over all things - conqueror over all foes.
 - With Christ, under his care, we'll completely prevail - remain bonded to him
 - Leaving no room for doubt.
 - Rout the enemies with this reality.

Step back. See everything from this reality. Breathe it in.

Christian, chill! You are totally secure in Christ's love.