

Nothing Can Separate

Life changes. That is simply reality. Try as we might, we cannot prevent change from taking place. Jobs change, families change, relationships change, life just changes. That realization makes Paul's claim about the permanence of God's promised relationship with us all the more startling. "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

With a change in life, often comes separation. We might have family or friends a time zone or even continents away. While technology can bring us closer together, a Zoom between a father and son is not the same thing as sitting in the same room or being able to do life in the same space as those we love. This pulling apart that takes place in life can plant seeds of loneliness that can grow into fear.

Thus Paul reminds us just how steadfast the love of God is. The list provided is a powerful one. Paul sets out a set of extremes implying the range covered by God's steadfastness: death, life, angels, rules, present, future, powers, height, depth, and just for good measure anything else in all creation. This is a rather impressive list and tells us an awful lot about the extent to which God will go to stick with us.

Thoughts for Reflection

How does God's steadfastness bring you comfort in your life?