

## He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not

Romans 8:31-34

“It is because we have such shallow views of God's love that we have such defective views of God's dealings. We blindly interpret the symbols of His providence, because we so imperfectly read the engravings of His heart.”

— **Octavius Winslow**

“God saves us in a way that will maximize our joy and his glory. That’s what Romans 8 is about... Paul also writes like this because he is aiming to write chapters 12-16 which are about the radical way we must live if we believe these things. He pleads: In view of these massive, free, almighty mercies – to save you and keep you and make everything work together for your good, and bring you to everlasting joy – be transformed in your values, don’t be conformed to the world. Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil. Outdo each other in showing honor. Be patient in tribulation. Give to the needy. Don’t return evil for evil. Bless those who persecute you. Weep with those who weep. Don’t be haughty. Make peace. Feed your enemy. Overcome evil with good (Romans 12). That’s where Paul is going. And Romans 8 is how to get there.”

– **John Piper**

**The more convinced we are of the incredible depth of God’s love for us in Christ, the more the able we will be to believe that the hardships and trials of life will only ultimately do us everlasting good. The more confident we are of that, the more free we will be to serve God in all circumstances.**

1. Consider the **Amazing Depth of the Father's Love for Us** – Any question about God's absolute dedication to our good is answered at the cross. (vs. 32)

"The greatest gift of the Father, the most precious donation given to us, was not things. It was not calling, justification, not even glorification...But the unspeakable and incomparable gift is the giving of his own Son." (John Murray)

Three key truths to meditate upon:

- Carefully consider **the infinite worth of the Son** to the Father: He did not spare "His own Son." He gave up His only Son in order to bring many sons to glory. God withheld nothing not even what He treasured most – the Son.
- Slowly consider **the incredible weight of the justice** placed upon the Son: He did "not spare" – The full weight of our sins was placed upon His Son without mercy. No drop of justice was left unpaid.

*"Parents spare their children when they do not inflict the full measure of chastisement due. Judges spare criminals when they do not pronounce a sentence commensurate with the crime committed. By way of contrast, this is not what God the Father did. He did not withhold or lighten one whit of the full toll of judgment executed upon His own beloved and only begotten Son."* (John Murray)

- Reverently consider **the free will of the Father** in saving us: "He gave Him up for us all."

*"Who delivered up Jesus to die? Not Judas, for money; not Pilate for fear; not the Jews for envy; - but the Father, for love!"* (Octavius Winslow, No Condemnation in Christ, London 1857, p. 358)

## 2. Consider the Amazing Defensiveness of the Father's Love for Us:

Any accusation against any of His chosen is met unequivocally by God. (8:33)

- a. All Encompassing Vindication: Who will bring “*any charge*”?
- b. Deeply Personal Insinuation: “Against *God's Elect*”
- c. Direct Divine Vindication: “It is God who Justifies”

Isaiah 50:7-9a

“But the Lord God helps me;  
Therefore I have not been disgraced;  
Therefore I have set my face like a flint,  
And I know that I shall not be put to shame.

**He who vindicates me is near.**

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who is my adversary?

Let him come near to me.

Behold the Lord God helps me;

**Who will declare me guilty?”**

Our zeal to honor the name of God in our daily lives flows out of our stunned awareness of God's unwillingness to accept no dishonoring of our names in His presence.

How convinced are you that God is radically defensive of you against any accusations of guilt and shame?

### 3. Consider the Amazing Directness of God's Love for Us in Christ

(8:32). We can never be separated from the love of the One who refuses to be separated from any of us.

- a. Christ died for our justification. Our sin couldn't keep him from loving us.
- b. Christ rose for our justification. The grave couldn't keep him from living for us.
- c. Christ intercedes for our justification. His crown will not keep Him from interceding for us.

Are you convinced that Christ would do anything and everything necessary to see you in glory with Himself?

Are you convinced Christ is doing everything necessary now to make that happen?

Consider again this quote from Octavius Winslow:

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— **Octavius Winslow**