



## More than Conquerors

Paul would know several conquerors in his time. As someone who is an Israelite who lived in Israel, he knew about the conquest of the Babylonians. He would also know about how the Babylonians were eventually conquered by the Persians, which then were conquered by the Greeks and then eventually led to the occupation of Israel by the Romans. That was the history of the nation that he was in over the past 400 years, and he lived during the time of the Roman occupation. He knew what a conqueror is and the power and authority they wield over the conquered.

However, in our passage today, he claims that Christians are *more* than conquerors. What does he mean by that? How can we be compared to the kings who conquered other nations? This passage is the climax of Paul's argument that started all the way back in Romans 1:18. Let us look at what Paul says about God's love in this passage.

### Launch

- 1) What are some issues that typically cause a relationship breakdown, such as a marriage, business partnership, friendship, or family?

### MORE THAN CONQUERORS

#### Read Romans 8:35-39

- 2) What is the answer to Paul's first question in v35? What are the options that he listed out?
- 3) What do you think "these things" are in v37?
  - a. Who does Paul say we are in "these things"? (v37)
  - b. What do you think that means?
- 4) What is the reason that Paul gives for what he says in v37? (v38)



- 5) What are the things that he listed out that cannot separate us from the love of God?
  - a. Take the time to discuss how each of those things cannot separate us from the love of God in Christ
  
- 6) Why do you think those things cannot separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord? (cf. Eph 2:1-10, Rom 3:21-28, Rom 8:28-30)
  
- 7) What comfort and assurance should that bring to our lives?
  
- 8) How should that change the way we live? How can we help one another?

## Conclusion

We are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us. Trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, or sword always seek to make us “yield” to them. Each of them has the potential to “conquer” and “control” us, making us feel like God does not care or love us anymore. But in Christ, we know for certain God’s love for us and in knowing that, we are more than conquerors. Nothing in all of creation can threaten God’s love for us. God transcends each of the things that Paul listed in v38-39. God is the life-giver (death nor life), commands the heavenly hosts (angels/demons), eternal (present/future) and all-powerful (any powers). How can anything in all of creation separate us from God’s love in Christ when he did not spare his own Son for us?

Knowing this gives us tremendous security and assurance in our lives. We also know that our hope is not in ourselves, or in anything that is from this world. Our ultimate hope is in our unchanging, all-loving God. That is why we “unearth” our hope, disconnecting our hope from anything here on earth, and connecting it to the one who controls and knows all things. That is why despite what is happening in this world, pandemic or not, our hope still remains absolutely secure in God through Christ who loved us.