



December 7, 2025

Kevin Sneed

Romans 8:31-39

Introduction

This week's message explores the profound truth that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus. Kevin Sneed takes us through Romans 8:31-39, where Paul corrects negative images we might hold about God and reminds us that God is decisively for us. Using Karl Barth's simple summary of theology—"Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so"—and the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, Kevin emphasizes that Jesus doesn't wait for us to clean ourselves up before drawing near. Instead, He encounters us in our shame and brokenness with unwavering love. As we continue through Advent, we're reminded that God's love isn't conditional tolerance—it's relentless, pursuing, inseparable love that meets us exactly where we are.

Key Texts: Romans 8:31-39; John 4:1-26; Psalm 2:7

Icebreaker:

When meeting new people, what's the most awkward or uncomfortable response you've gotten when they found out what you do for a living or something significant about you?

Discussion Questions

1. Kevin opened with Karl Barth's summary of his entire theology: "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so." Why do you think such a simple, childlike statement could summarize decades of theological study? How does this phrase land with you personally?

2. **Read Romans 8:31-39 together as a group.** Paul lists everything that might try to separate us from God's love—trouble, hardship, persecution, danger, even death. Which of these feels most relevant to your life right now? What makes it feel like a potential barrier to God's love?
3. Kevin mentioned that "what you believe about God is the most important thing about you." How would you describe what you believe about God's disposition toward you—tolerant? Disappointed? Loving? Indifferent? How does that belief shape how you approach life and faith?
4. **Read John 4:1-26 together** (or at least verses 7-18). The Samaritan woman came to the well in the middle of the day, likely to avoid the shame and gossip of her community. Jesus chose to encounter her there, in her shame. When have you experienced Jesus meeting you in a moment of shame or brokenness? How did that encounter change your understanding of His love?
5. Kevin shared his own story of crying in his car, feeling broken and ashamed, and being met with Psalm 2:7: "You are my son, today I have become your Father." He was met with love, not condemnation. How does the truth that Jesus loves you "as you are, not as you should be" challenge or comfort you?
6. Kevin asked us to imagine Jesus knocking on the door and coming in with full knowledge of everything about us—our secrets, our shame, our failures. What emotions rise to the surface when you picture this? How does knowing that what's really coming for you is love change that picture?
7. How can your Community Group pray for you and support you as you wrestle with believing and receiving the truth that nothing can separate you from God's love? Where do you most need the "voices of community" to remind you of this truth?

Key Takeaways

- God is decisively for us—if God is for us, who can be against us?
- Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus
- Jesus doesn't wait for us to clean ourselves up—He encounters us in our shame
- We are not merely tolerated; we are deeply loved
- Advent reminds us of the waiting anticipation of God's love come down
- Jesus loves us as we are, not as we should be

Notes