

1

God's Everlasting Love

Romans 8:1-17, 28-39



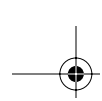
David Howard, a missionary in Latin America, once met President Figueres of Costa Rica. After that one meeting, whenever their paths crossed, the president would greet David by name. It was a thrill for David to have someone of such stature recognize him personally!

Have you ever stopped to think about God's stature when he says, "I know you. I love you"? It is one thing to be on a first-name basis with the president of a country. But the God of the universe? Yet it is in fact this God of creation who says, "I know you. And more than know you, I love you so much I will do all I can to meet your deepest needs."

GROUP DISCUSSION. How do you know when someone really loves you?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. How are you affected when you are deeply loved by someone?





10 ————— *Love*

In this study we will consider what it is to be secure in God's everlasting love. *Read Romans 8:1-17.*

1. How does Paul describe our condition when we lived by the sinful nature (vv. 5-8)?

2. What all did God do for us even while we were in this awful condition (vv. 1-4, 9-11, 13-17)?

3. What does it mean to you that you can call God *Abba*, a term meaning "dearest Father" (v. 15)?

4. How have you experienced the freedom from condemnation that God's love brings?

How is this freedom different from or similar to what you have experienced of human love?



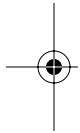


God's Everlasting Love _____ 11

5. Read Romans 8:28-39. According to these verses, what does God do for those who are led by the Spirit of God?

6. Look at Paul's explanation in verses 28-30. Why can he say with such conviction that in all things God works for our good?

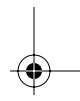
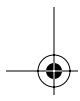
How have you recently seen this to be true?

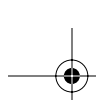


7. In your own words, how does Paul describe and respond to this love of God (vv. 31-39)?

8. Why is being loved like this life-changing?

9. What fears or concerns do you have about your future?





12 _____ Love

What encouragement about the future can you find in this text?

10. How do you respond to the evidence in this passage of God's great love for you?

Use words from this passage to describe the love of God and praise him for it. Talk to him about the difficulty you have believing and experiencing his love. Ask him to make very real to you the fact that "nothing can separate you from God's love."



Now or Later

Go back through the passage and list what God has done for you, is doing for you and will do for you. Note God's attitude toward you in all that he is doing. Write out a letter of praise to God. In it tell him where you have trouble believing and accepting his love. Ask him to open your heart and mind to believe it and be transformed by it.

