

# A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

## "God's Love" 8/31/22

*What shall separate us from the love of Christ?  
Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril,  
or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through  
Him who loved us. For I am sure neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,  
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. (Rom 8:35-39)*

When bad things happen, or when good things don't happen, it's easy to think we've fallen from God's good graces. God has forgotten all about us and our needs and dreams. He has removed His love from us. When the car breaks down – on our way to work. When Mom says, "You'd better sit down kids." When that cute guy says he'll call, and he doesn't. When your loved one doesn't make it through surgery. When your house burns down. When the bills are larger than your bank balance. When your spouse is accused of sexual assault. When you don't get the job. When the doctor says, "I've got the results of your blood test," and you can't even hear the rest. Your head spins and your toes freeze. Or in that moment when you feel alone, neglected, rejected, and so lost - not even God can find you.

Shall trouble, hard times, hatred, prove God has removed His love, His compassion? NO. God created us to be in relationship with Godself. God so loves each of us, He sent His Son to show us how much. He sent His Holy Spirit to walk with us, to comfort us, to strengthen us, to keep us from being lost.

Shall hunger or homelessness hamper God's love and compassion from reaching me? Do they show others - God's lack of love? NO. God's love is faithful, His compassion is unshakeable. Shall being bullied or backstabbed bushwhack the Divine's love for us? Show the world God's favor has been removed? NO. God's loving kindness is better than life. I will lift up my hands unto His name.

There is so much hatred, murder, war and evil, in the world. Surely this proves God has removed His love from us. NO. For God so loved the world, the whole world. He tells us this in His Word. He shows us this through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus the Christ.

How about my own sinful nature? Surely God can't love me when I turn away from Him. NO. When we repent and turn from our selfish ways, God forgives us. He starts a new page. With love He wipes away our tears and holds us close.

None of these lies should faze us - because God loves us. I'm absolutely convinced, nothing - nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable - absolutely *nothing* can come between us and God's love.

People of God, though direct or indirect words or action may tell us we are unlovable, no one cares, we have no worth, no one is interested if we live or die. And that's why we weren't invited over, hired, asked out, that's why no one calls or cares. None of this is true. God loves us. Period.

So, what shall separate us from the love of God? Nothing. Thanks be to God.

## **Please pray with me.**

Lord of life, we praise You for Your grace and compassion, for being slow to anger, and for Your steadfast love. Thank You for Your assurance that nothing can separate us from Your love.

**Amen.**