



**God Loves Us No Matter What**  
**Sept. 28, 2011**  
**Scripture: Romans 8:31-39**

*The following was a devotion done at the Solanco Senior Center.  
It was based off a youth weekend over the 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.*

This past weekend, I attended a youth event with four youth from Mt. Eden. The theme of the weekend was “Alive Alive no matter what”. This theme looked at the reading from Romans, especially the passages of “Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.”

Often, this passage has been used at funerals I have presided over. There’s something comforting and assuring about this passage during a time of grief. It reminds those who hear these words that not even death can separate us from God’s love.

Yet hearing this passage in terms of life and living has been on my mind since the weekend.

As we loaded up the car Friday afternoon in pouring rain, it took several tries to get everything in and the trunk closed without anything falling out. Hoping I was preparing myself for what was ahead, I said, “that’s okay, God loves me no matter what.”

Later as we continued on the road to a camp I had never been to – and got us extremely lost – I had to remind myself “God loves me, no matter what.”

By the time we got to the camp, an hour later than I had anticipated, and the youth were thrown into the evening activities, I began to wonder what on earth I had gotten them, and myself into. I was beginning to doubt my thoughts of this being a great experience for the youth of helping them to see and know that no matter what, God loves them.

At one point during the weekend, the adults who were not leading small groups were invited to share in a discussion of the theme. Charlie, our leader, took us on an exploration of v. 35, “who will separate us from the love of Christ?” He asked us to think about the things that get in our way of accepting this great gift of love.

Several in the discussion shared their sense of wanting to control or have control in their lives. Others talked about the business of their schedules, the demands on time between family, work, and volunteering.

As I listened to others share, I realized also the one thing that for me gets into the way of accepting this great gift of God's love is none other than me, myself, and I. I can show and tell others about God's love. I can remind others about God being with them in the good times and the bad times - but there are times where I too forget this incredible good news.

And so, today, we need the reminder again – each and every one of us: that God loves you, no matter what.

Families may not come to visit as much as we would like: God loves you, no matter what.

The monthly social security check may be smaller this month, or arrive later than expected: God loves you, no matter what.

The lifelong friend may suddenly stop calling, writing, or keeping in touch: God loves you no matter what.

News of illness, or friends or family member experiencing difficulty in life may leave us feeling as though our world has fallen apart: God loves you, no matter what.

No matter what, nothing can separate us from God's love.

In the hymn, “the old rugged cross”, there is a line: *nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling.*” We come to the cross with nothing in our hands so that we can cling to the cross – and the assurance, the hope, the promise, and the reality, that no matter what, God loves each and every one of us.

Today, tomorrow, and always, may you know how much God loves you.