Introduction: What Are You Afraid of?

I. Are You Afraid of Enemies? (v.31)
   A. The Fear: We Have Many Enemies Who Are “against us”
      o The early Christians had numerous enemies opposing them
      o We have many enemies opposing us today
   B. The Solution: Know the Divine Disposition
      o God is For us!
      o God is For us!

II. Are You Afraid God Won’t Meet Your Needs? (v.32)
   A. The Fear: We Doubt Whether God Will Really Be There For Us
      o Sure, God saved me, but what about providing for me?
      o Do you have the “pull the rug out from under me” view of God?
   B. The Solution: Understand the Divine Logic
      o Paul argues from the greater to the lesser
      o God already did the greater thing: “did not spare his own Son”
      o So why would he not do the lesser, and provide for our needs?

III. Are You Afraid of Being Condemned? (v.33-34)
   A. The Fear: Maybe Somehow I Will Still be Punished for My Sin
      o Because we see the depth of our sin, we are tempted to doubt our forgiveness
      o What if someone brings a charge against me that sticks?
B. The Solution: Rest in Divine Justice
   o But isn’t God’s justice the problem?
   o No, because God has poured out his justice on Christ: “it is God who justifies”
   o Moreover, Christ is alive interceding for us

IV. Are You Afraid of Everything? (v.35-39)
   A. The Fear: What about all the various things in the universe that might separate me from God?
   B. Solution: Hope in Divine Love
      o Paul lists all the categories of our greatest fears
         - Death
         - Demonic/spiritual powers
         - The Future
      o But God’s love surpasses “anything else in all creation”
Discussion Groups

1. How much is fear a struggle in your life today? Which of these areas causes you the most fear?

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2. How has this passage helped alleviate the particular fear you are struggling with?

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3. In what ways does this passage help you see the importance of theology for practical living?

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