

## A FEELING OF BEING DIFFERENT

“We are born into a world where alienation awaits us.” – Ronald David Laing

**Do you ever feel on the outside, looking in? awkward in social situations? rejected? like you don’t fit in? like you don’t belong?**

**How can we overcome these feelings?**

“So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn’t hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn’t gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God’s chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us – who was raised to life for us! – is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ’s love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture.

*They kill us in cold blood because they hate you.  
We’re sitting ducks, they pick us off one by one.*

None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I’m absolutely convinced that nothing – nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable – absolutely *nothing* can get between us and God’s love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

Romans 8:31-39 (from the Message, a paraphrase  
by Eugene Peterson)