

**Christ's resurrection is for you.**

**Romans 6:1–11** “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? [2] By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? [3] Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? [4] We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

[5] For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. [6] We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. [7] For one who has died has been set free from sin. [8] Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. [9] We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. [10] For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. [11] So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” (ESV)

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Today is a vital day for the church and for everyone who believes in Jesus. Easter. The anchor of the church calendar. A day of newness. Life. Vibrancy. Freedom for those who will grab ahold of it.

It all springs forth from a tomb that was made empty by the Savior who died on the cross for us.

**Mark 16:1–8** “When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so they could embalm him. Very early on Sunday morning, as the sun rose, they went to the tomb. They worried out loud to each other, “Who will roll back the stone from the tomb for us?”

4-5 Then they looked up, saw that it had been rolled back—it was a huge stone—and walked right in. They saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed all in white. They were completely taken aback, astonished.

6-7 He said, “Don’t be afraid. I know you’re looking for Jesus the Nazarene, the One they nailed on the cross. He’s been raised up; he’s here no longer. You can see for yourselves that the place is empty. Now—on your way. Tell his disciples and Peter that he is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You’ll see him there, exactly as he said.” 8 They got out as fast as they could, beside themselves, their heads swimming. Stunned, they said nothing to anyone.” (MSG)

An amazing event. Foretold but not understood. This is where his ministry was headed. The inauguration of his Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven.

It proves he was special. From the dramatic events of the days before to a new dawn where death was defeated. It proves his deity (that he is God), and it proves his power over all things.

But what does the resurrection have to do with us? How does this awakening of new life from Jesus reach you, today, tomorrow, in your whole life?

Actually, it has a great deal to do with us. It is life or death for us. It is our genesis story, our beginning. Because it happened we can be who we were meant to be, forever.

Seeing how the early church applied the resurrection helps us approach it the same way. The apostle Paul, the murderer turned evangelist, had his own encounter with the resurrected Jesus and it shaped how he taught us to have the same experience.

Romans is his introduction to the church there. He planned to come to them as a stop on his journey to the frontier to preach the good news of forgiveness of sin in Jesus. And he uses the letter to lay out the basics of Christian theology, our thoughts of God and our relationship to him.

Salvation by grace through faith poses the question Paul has determined to answer. If salvation is all the work of God that we receive, wouldn’t he get more glory if we sinned more, to make the saving more extravagant? If God takes the worst of sinners who come to believe in Jesus, should we not try to become worse sinners?!

It is a reasonable question - and honestly, it is a question that should be asked more, if we were to preach the grace of Christ correctly!

In telling the church that they need not go on sinning once they are in Christ, he reveals how the death and resurrection become ours and change everything. Because you believe in Jesus, and he died and rose, you are united to him.

### **United with Christ.**

Don't go on sinning, how can those who died to sin still live in it?

**Romans 6:3-4** “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? [4] We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” (ESV)

When we come to faith in Jesus we are baptized, dunked under water, as a proclamation of our faith in Jesus, and outward symbol of what has happened inside us.

*Shadows* - if my hand casts a shadow on the wall, the shadow is the symbol of my hand, but my hand is the real thing. Going under the water for us, symbolizes dying to sin with Jesus, being buried with him in order that we too could be raised to life for the glory of the Father.

For us it is not just some good thoughts about God, it is being made one with Jesus. His life is ours, our lives are his.

*Gattaca (1997)*. A genetically inferior man (Vincent) assumes the identity of a superior one (Jerome) in order to pursue his lifelong dream of space travel. Better than even the best SciFi flick, Jesus intentionally takes on our identity to the cross and we walk out of the tomb with him, spiritually identified as him.

And this handles sin - the disregard of God and his way, following after things he says are death, and all of the corruption of our hearts and the world since the fall in the garden of creation.

His obedient life, his sacrificial death. Jesus repairs the breach between God and us by his cross. He takes our sin with him onto the cross and into the tomb.

**Romans 6:6–7** “We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. [7] For one who has died has been set free from sin.” (ESV)  
“The death he died to sin, once for all...” This means we are free from the tyranny of sin, it no longer rules us. We have an out, a better way of life.

And it means that God sees us as he sees Christ. United with Jesus in faith, his account is ours and the Father views us as his children, no longer destined for wrath but redeemed and the first fruits of his kingdom of renewal. Love fulfilled.

Before Christ we were in Adam - in sin and inherited rejection of God. Now, made new we are in Christ, imparted righteousness, made holy.

Being identified in his death, burial and resurrection makes us new. **6:4b** “just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

Our identity changes. We are supernaturalized.

Like a *Pokemon* evolving... once the change happens it sticks.

We were once regarded according to the old flesh, but no longer in Christ. No longer defined by your sin, no longer needing to sin, free to live something different, better.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (ESV)

"This victory over death is the foundation for the liberation of the baptized Christian. Christ was raised from the dead not merely to publicize his good news or to confirm his messianic character, but to introduce human beings into freedom, a new mode of life, with a new principle of vital activity, the Spirit."  
Joseph Fitzmeyer

Anticipating the new doesn't decline; we are kept going always toward newness in Jesus. He isn't done with us yet until the day in the future when he calls us to himself for the final time and declares "it is done!"

Through Christ's death the ruling power of sin was broken; all of the powers of the old age were cast out, and in the resurrection of Christ the new age has begun. In sharing in that death and resurrection of Christ, believers are rescued from the dominion of sin and are transferred to the realm of his glorious, risen life.

New passions for his glory and his purpose.

**Romans 6:5** "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." (ESV)

### **Alive with Christ.**

This is the power of the resurrection, not just in history, or for Jesus, but for you. You are made alive with Christ forever. Newness is your jam.

**Romans 6:8** "Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him." (ESV)

His life is ours and that means he is our strength to live for the new passion he gives us and calls us to.

**Galatians 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (ESV)

The gospel message is not only for proclaiming and believing: it is for living.

The resurrection is our starting point on the timeline of our lives. Each day new. Expectancy. That's what Easter is for us. The relocation to a different land, a different life. Headed to eternity with the risen King.

*Think of a time...The anticipation of new things, new job, new home, new relationships.* All temporary but new life in Christ is to be that perpetual sense of excitement.

Jesus' resurrection life infuses the lives of believers both now and in the age to come.

I think we can give a rousing amen to Paul's "by no means!" when it comes to going on sinning, but go quiet when it comes to owning resurrection life.

"Perhaps you have done the no - refusing to yield to the service of sin. That is good, but it is not enough. There must be the yes - "Take and use my entire life, Lord."

*Rees* - "so often I think about Jesus setting all things right in eternity and that our longing for perfection will occur in the new heavens and the new earth, but too often don't zero in on the present. The present effects of the resurrection."

**Romans 6:11** "So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." (ESV)

The resurrection is the great undoing of the evil that has unfolded throughout history. And since that moment, things are being remade, renewed, and headed to their designed purpose. The present effects of that truth are upturned heads, to see Jesus, follow him, and enter into his work of remaking. The undoing of what is wrong.

It begins with our lives.

"Resurrection does not have to do exclusively with what happens after we are buried or cremated. It does have to do with that, but first of all it has to do with the way we live right now. But as Karl Barth, quoting Nietzsche, pithily reminds us: "Only where graves are is there resurrection." We practice our death by giving up our will to live on our own terms. Only in that relinquishment or renunciation are we able to practice resurrection." Eugene Peterson, *Resurrection Life*

Consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God in Christ. Your frame of mind is reshaped by the resurrection.

This life is our walk with Jesus. "*Walking with Jesus is my cardio.*"

"Walk by new rules, towards new ends, from new principles. Make a new choice of the way. Choose new paths to walk in, new leaders to walk after, new companions to walk with. Old things should pass away, and all things become new." Matthew Henry

This sanctification, becoming like Jesus, is like our justification in him, we don't do it in our strength... **Romans 8:11** "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you." (ESV)

It is the life we need. And it comes to us via an empty tomb in Jerusalem. By the love of the Father, through the obedience of the Son, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Christ's resurrection is for you.**

**Come** -- Be united with Christ. Die to sin and rejection of God by turning from those things to him, the Savior that welcomes you and loves you.

**Consider** -- Christian, this is who you are, dead to sin by being united with Christ in a death like his. Raised to newness of life through his resurrection. Become increasingly aware of this union. And live. Justified in Christ. To bring his kingdom here.

Easter isn't about Spring or candy or pastels. It is new life. It is us alive with Christ.

"Could it be any clearer? Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with Christ, a decisive end to that sin-miserable life—no longer at sin's every beck and call! What we believe is this: If we get included in Christ's sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us. From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That's what Jesus did." **Romans 6:6-11** (MSG)

Let's live.