

The Present and Practical Implications of Christ's Resurrection (or "Why do I care?")

Easter is coming—whom will you invite?

The Primacy and Proof of Christ's Resurrection (The actual resurrection of Christ)

- Empty Tomb; Eyewitness; Every Changed Life
- Historical; Evidential; Defensible
- Physical; Glory
- Every thing Christ claimed is true—all that we believe

The Doctrinal Substance of Christ's Resurrection

- Ratification; Justification; Assurance
- Coming again
- Dead in Christ; Alive and Remain
- Physical; Glory
- With the Lord; Resurrected World

But it is not just that the Resurrection is a **fact of history** and so we have the forgiveness of the **penalty of sins**; or that it is a **future event** in which we will finally be free from the **presence of sin**; it is also a **present reality** in our lives that allows us to walk in victory over the **power of sin (= why we care now)**

- If the **resurrection of Christ** was merely a **historic event** we may live in **passive resignation**—to the fact that though we are forgiven, we still struggle under the power of sin
- If the **resurrection of the believer** was merely a **future event** we may fall into an **escapist mindset**—brought on by the fact that though we still struggle under the power of sin we will one day be set free in new creation
- But the resurrection of Christ and the resurrection of the believer **meet now**—there is a **present reality** (a powerful reality)
- Philippians 3:10-11 (COMBINED TRANSLATIONS)
I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power of His resurrection. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!
 - Knowing Christ (he lives!)
 - Experiencing **the power** of His resurrection (there is present power for us)
 - = I want to live in such a way that I appear as one who is living among the dead (new life)
 - Preceded by the cross (sharing in His death)

For us to experience the mighty power of His resurrection, there are 2 things that are necessary

- 1. A continual experience of the cross
- 2. The power of the person of the Holy Spirit

Romans 5:1-2; 12; 17-21

- **6:1** (a valid question)
- **6:2-4**
 - Answer with identification (union) with Christ
 - Since Christ's death led to His resurrection and a new life, so in the same way **our union with Christ will**, and must, lead to a new life
 - Res of Christ = New life for us (new way to live)
 - Baptism as symbol
- **6:5-9**
 - **One fruit of union with Christ is certainty.** Since all that is true of Jesus is true of us, and since He rose to new life, so we know that we are living that new life.
 - And that new life points forward to the future state of perfect glory we shall enter, with Him.
 - If we know that we are united with Christ, then we will know we are living a new life, no longer under sin's dominance—**and we won't ask the question of verse 1.**

"A Christian's 'old self' is gone completely. The old 'ego,' the old self-understanding, the old stance of the whole person toward God and the world—all that is gone. It has died—I died—and 'anyone who has died has been freed from sin'. As a Christian, 'I,' my truest self, really seeks God and loves His law and holiness. While sin remains in me with a lot of strength, it no longer controls my personality and life. It is still able to lead me to disobey God, but now, sinful behavior goes against my deepest self-understanding." --Tim Keller¹

- 6:10-11

“You can still be a slave experientially, even when you are no longer a slave legally... [But] whatever you may feel, whatever your experience may be, God tells us here, through His word, that if we are in Christ we are no longer in Adam, we are no longer under the reign and rule of sin... And if I fall into sin, as I do, it is simply **because I do not realize who I am**... Realize it! Reckon it!” --Martyn Lloyd-Jones

- 6:12-15

“When a non-Christian sins, they are acting in accord with their identity, with who they are. Why *wouldn't* they sin? But when someone is united to Christ, everything changes, because who they are changes. There is a new ‘me.’ When a Christian sins, they are acting against their identity. Why *would* they sin? Therefore, if I sin, it is because I do not realize who I am; I have forgotten what has been done for me in Christ.” --Tim Keller²

Sometimes what it takes to walk in the newness of who we are (the resurrected life) is to remember and apply what happened to how we were (the crucified life)

- Galatians 2:20 + 5:24 (NLT)

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.

- Where ever there is the possibility of walking in resurrection power there is first the opportunity to walk in crucifixion

- Matthew 16:24 (COMBINED TRANSLATIONS)

If any of you wants to be my follower, you must deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me.

But, we do not only need the experience of the Cross to live the resurrected life, we also need the power of the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:1-14

Ephesians 1:19-20

I pray that you will understand **the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him.** This is **the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead** and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

Application

- In seeking to live the resurrected life:

- Where do you need to deny yourself and crucify the desires of the flesh?

- Colossians 3:5

So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

- Where do you need help from the Holy Spirit—right now?

- Galatians 5:22-25

The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

- Do you need to change your intake and influences?

- Colossians 3:1-2 (NASB)

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.