



Easter Sunday 2018 ~ Romans 6:6-11

- ⁶ Could it be any clearer that our former identity is now and forever deprived of its power? For we were co-crucified with him to dismantle the stronghold of sin within us, so that we would not continue to live one moment longer submitted to sin's power.

⁷ Obviously, a dead person is incapable of sinning. ⁸ And if we were co-crucified with the Anointed One, we know that we will also share in the fullness of his life. ⁹ And we know that since the Anointed One has been raised from the dead to die no more, his resurrection life has vanquished death and its power over him is finished. ¹⁰ For by his sacrifice he died to sin's power once and for all, but he now lives continuously for the Father's pleasure. ¹¹ So let it be the same way with you! Since you are now joined with him, you must continually view yourselves as dead and unresponsive to sin's appeal while living daily for God's pleasure in union with Jesus, the Anointed One.

"Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about." ~ N.T. Wright

- The Verdict Announced at the Resurrection:

- **Because of the resurrection...**our former identity is now and forever deprived of its power. The power of sin in our lives has been dismantled and we no longer have to submit to it. **Sin has no power over us!**

- **A "former identity" is still an identity.** It's difficult for most people to simply walk away from old patterns and habits...*Now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do **those things** that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. (Rom 6:22 NLT-SE)*

- **Christ Jesus died to set all mankind free.** That doesn't mean that the benefits of his death and resurrection don't have personal implications.

In fact, it is impossible to really trust Jesus until you realize that He ended the curse of sin, not just for "we," but for "me" as well...*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. (Gal 2:20 NLT-SE)*

- **It's not just freedom from sin that opens us up to new life, but we have actually been "raised" to a new way of life.** Yes, we die to our old way of living, but are "resurrected" from that place of weakness and surrender to new heights with unbelievable potential for good...¹¹ *When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. ¹²*

"The Bible says he was raised not just after the blood-shedding, but by it. This means that what the death of Christ accomplished was so full and so perfect that the resurrection was the reward and vindication of Christ's achievement in death." ~ John Piper

For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. (Col 2:11–12 NLT-SE)

- **Because of the resurrection...**not only has sin been defeated, but the power of death has been defeated as well. **Death has no power over us!**

- **The whole idea of a “death grip” is real.** It is the grip the enemy had on all mankind as a result of Adam’s fall. Jesus broke the enemy’s grip on our lives on the Cross and sealed that freedom at His resurrection...*God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. (Acts 2:24 NLT-SE)*

“The devil, darkness, and death may swagger and boast, the pangs of life will sting for a while longer, but don't worry; the forces of evil are breathing their last. Not to worry...He's risen!” ~ Charles R. Swidoll

- **Holiness is not the result of our actions, but those of Jesus our Savior.**

The resurrection made it possible for any man or woman to walk in holiness...*For God’s will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. (Heb 10:10 NLT-SE)*

- **Because of the resurrection...**Jesus now lives continuously for the Father’s pleasure and because we are joined to Jesus, so can we! **The power we have in Jesus enables us to live for the Father’s pleasure!**

- **Resurrection life is eternal in quality and everlasting in duration.** Furthermore, God is its Source and also its Goal. All this is true of Jesus Christ in reality and experience. We believers are identified with Him by faith and are commanded to count ourselves dead to sin but alive to God...² Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?...⁴ *For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. (Rom 6:2, 3-4 NLT-SE)*

- **Since since we are are dead to its power, we ought to recognize that fact and not continue in sin.** Instead we are to appropriate the reality that we have new life in Christ; we literally share His resurrection life...⁴ God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) ⁶ For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. (Eph 2:4–6 NLT-SE)

- So, what does “Resurrected Life” look like?

- God Himself described David as “a man after His own heart.” David’s cry for forgiveness in Psalm 51 was more than just a cry of desperation from deep within a broken man. **His cry was a remarkable prophecy of the freedom from sin Jesus would bring to all mankind.**

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. ² Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. ³ For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. ⁴ Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. ⁵ For I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.

⁶ But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there. ⁷ Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸ Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me— now let me rejoice. ⁹ Don’t keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not banish me from your presence, and don’t take your Holy Spirit from me. (Psa 51:1–11 NLT-SE)

• **Jesus Followers who are living Resurrected Lives...**

- **Have believed in and stand firm on what Jesus accomplished at the Cross.** They see the Bible, not as a rule book or instruction manual for life, but as an expression of the heart of God to redeemed man.

- ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. (Eph 6:11–13 NLT-SE)

- ¹³ Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. ¹⁴ And do everything with love. (1 Cor 16:13–14 NLT-SE)

- **Have embraced the Gospel Message and made it their own personal message.** The Father gives up on no one, ever, and neither will I.

- ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. ¹⁷ This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.” (Rom 1:16–17 NLT-SE)

“Outside of the cross of Jesus Christ, there is no hope in this world. That cross and resurrection at the core of the Gospel is the only hope for humanity. Wherever you go, ask God for wisdom on how to get that Gospel in, even in the toughest situations of life.” ~ Ravi Zacharias

- ¹² I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him, ¹³ even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴ Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” —and I am the worst of them all. (1 Tim 1:12–15 NLT-SE)

- **Have made the pursuit of Jesus a life-long endeavor of spiritual growth.** They remain **teachable** and resist the temptation to “coast” in their spiritual walk. Life's challenges are seen as open doors to becoming more like Jesus through the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.

- Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people. (Luke 2:52 NLT-SE)

- ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. (Eph 4:14–15 NLT-SE)

- ⁹ So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. (Col 1:9–10 NLT-SE)

- Have made their **highest spiritual achievement**, not to live lives that are sinless or without fault, but to **live a life that is fully pleasing to God.**

- ⁶ So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. ⁷ For we live by believing and not by seeing. ⁸ Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please him. (2 Cor 5:6–9 NLT-SE)
- ⁸ Once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! ⁹ For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.¹⁰ Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. (Eph 5:8–10 NLT-SE)
- Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more. (1 Th 4:1 NLT-SE)