

## Resurrection Life

**"The resurrection is at the core of our beliefs as Christians. Without it, our faith is meaningless." - Joseph B. Wirthlin.** In his book, *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*, Tim Keller states, **"If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead."**

Do you believe everything Jesus said? What would your life look like if you did? **The enemy gets authority in our lives to the degree to which we believe his words over Christ's. God is calling us to live in this resurrection life.** In this sermon we will focus on a well-known passage of scripture, a scripture you can really mine good things from, and I will start with the end of the passage which is one of my favourite verses.

*2 Cor 5:21 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Díkaios ("righteous, just") describes what is in conformity to God's own being (His will, standard of rightness); hence "upright." Literally innocent before God. There is a breed of people God has recreated who reflect His standard of righteousness because of who they have become in the spirit. If we unpack this passage and trust God to mine it fully for all the revelation He has in store for us, we cannot remain the same. There is a type of food this new man needs to eat in order for you to live from this place.

*There are two theological terms I want to define stemming from this scripture.*

***Propitiation: Propitiation refers to the act of appeasing or satisfying the wrath of a deity. In Christian theology, it specifically pertains to the reconciliation of humanity with God through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. Essentially, Jesus' sacrifice serves as the means by which God's wrath against sin is appeased, and believers can be forgiven and restored to a right relationship with God.***

***Justification: Justification is a legal term with theological significance. It refers to the act of God declaring a sinner righteous or acquitted of guilt. This declaration is not based on the individual's own merit or good deeds but is entirely due to the atoning work of Jesus Christ. Through faith in Jesus, believers are justified before God, meaning they are forgiven of their sins and credited with the righteousness of Christ. Justification marks the believer's new standing before God as righteous and acceptable.***

**God has set in us His standard of righteousness and He desires that we fully walk in it that the world will see it in us.**

**Is God angry with you? No, all His wrath was exerted onto His Son. This is propitiation.**

Let's now look at this scripture in the context of the verses leading up to it:

*2 Cor 5:14-21 is the key passage.*

*Verse 14 For Christ's love compels us,*

**Compels = controls, to hold together, to hold fast, to be seized. What would be different in your life if you were fully controlled by Agape?** (Compare with Romas 5:5 – His love has been shed abroad in our hearts by His Spirit).

**It's possible to do good things compelled by something else other than Christ's love.** I can write good Christian books but be driven by selfish ambition. You can come to Church hoping it will help you to maintain the approval of someone you respect.

**We may love to say many things, but if these are not uttered in the Holy Spirit it is better to say nothing. The flesh can conjure up many plans and methods and be full of expectations. The righteousness of the flesh is as abhorrent as its sin. We must always maintain God's view of the flesh. Watchman Nee**

*V14 continued, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.*

**There are things that should be in your basement not in your living room. Don't live from that place because you have died. This is significant.** The word **all** is the word *panton* in Greek and it means everyone. Some people think Jesus only died for the so-called elect etc. He died for all.

*15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

**What would life look like if you stopped living for yourself?** This was the goal of His death, that we all die with Him. He died on our behalf because if we had died, we would have deserved hell. It's not just about stopping living for yourself but replacing that with living for Christ. What does that look like? It has implications for every hour, every thought, every agenda and every bit of spending. It is not something that is painful. We are able to, in this reality. That's the beauty of the resurrection life. We have the life and love of Christ at work in us. His righteousness is at work in us. Justification is a new state of life. It's not just some historical event.

*16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.*

Elsewhere the Bible states how man looks at outward appearance, but God looks at the heart. **He is calling us to train ourselves to see how He sees. Many of us are good at meditating on our new identity in Christ, but few of us meditate on Christ in others. The resurrection of Jesus Christ compels us to change how we view people.** We no longer see people after the flesh because we recognise their worth as one who Christ died for. **Imagine each time I relate to you I see your potential in God. I see who you are in the spirit.** Then imagine I always speak to the treasure in you. He died for all. What does it mean to regard people from a worldly perspective? It is mentioned earlier in the chapter. *2 Cor 5:12 12 We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.* This is the pride of this life. We respect people more based on externals. **Mark 8:36 What does it profit a man to gain the whole world yet forfeit his soul?**

***"Faith is acting in the face of contrary evidence. The senses declare, "It cannot be," but Faith shouts above the turmoil, "It is!"* — E. W. Kenyon** What's your reality?

What is the flesh? Some translations say "flesh", it's the Greek word *sarka* which means ("carnal"), merely of human origin or empowerment. It means materiality, kindred or human nature. So when you are dealing with unsaved people they can say "it is human nature" just like Michael Jackson's song. However, in Christ Jesus we have become the righteousness of God. This means that we can expect resurrection life things from others and ourselves. Have you settled for a normal human life? Although it is a word sometimes used to speak of our biological needs or the human body, *sarka* is generally negative, referring to making decisions (actions) according to self – i.e. done apart from faith

(independent from God's inworking). Thus, what is "of the flesh (carnal)" is by definition displeasing to the Lord – even things that seem "respectable!" In short, flesh generally relates to unaided human effort, i.e. decisions (actions) that originate from self or are empowered by self. This is carnal ("of the flesh") and proceeds out of the untouched (unchanged) part of us – i.e. what is not transformed by God. **What part of my life has not yet been touched by resurrection life?** It is exactly the same as it was before I got saved.

***Man's flesh remains as corrupt in those who are born anew as in those who are not. The flesh in a saint is the same as that in a sinner. In regeneration the flesh is not transformed. New birth exerts no good influence on the flesh. It remains as is. Watchman Nee***

We have a choice today. **From which part of yourself will you live?** There are aspects of your DNA that are wrapped up and don't need to be activated. Don't accept it as a done deal.

What does it mean that He rose again ON OUR BEHALF?

**"The resurrection gives us hope for the future, because it assures us that God's power can overcome any obstacle." – Anonymous**

**"The resurrection gives my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances." - Robert Flatt**

**The same resurrection life that caused Christ to overcome death is the same life that gives you resilience today. If Jesus bounced back from the dead then you can bounce back from sickness, depression, and any kind of setback.**

*Verse 16 continued, Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.*

***We no longer see Christ after the flesh. We recognize that He is not just Jesus of Nazareth but the Spirit of the resurrected Christ dwells in us.***

*17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

*kainós – properly, new in quality (innovation), fresh in development or opportunity – because "not found exactly like this before." Novel. Fresh, Unused. Never seen before.*

This is not just a new version of the old. In Greek, there is a different word for that.

The old has gone or passed away, means it is rendered void and disregarded.

The new is here. Literally speaks of becoming. *Ginomai* means "to become, and signifies a change of condition, state or place" (Vine, Unger, White, NT, 109). M. Vincent, "1096 *gínomai* means to come into being/manifestation implying motion, movement, or growth" (at 2 Pet 1:4). Thus, it is used for God's actions as emerging from eternity and becoming (showing themselves) in time (physical space).

*18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin[b] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

**Reconcile = katallássō = Decisively coming back to the same point. The love of Christ is compelling us to call people back to God. Back to their place of identity and origin.**

**God is making His appeal through us. What does God say through you, if you have the Spirit of Christ in you?**

**Your flesh, the old self, is desperate to stay alive albeit under the guise of good religious disciplines.** It will find a way to creep into your prayer life and spirituality. Your job is to live from the spirit and not the flesh. Let the new creation be the driving force behind your behaviour.