

CrossRoads Baptist Church
May 11, 2008 10:15 a.m.
Romans 6:1-4
Romans #36

Our Identity With His Resurrection

The Christian message includes the great hope that when we die, our bodies will be raised from the grave by the power of the Spirit; the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the grave. Romans 8:11

But I need resurrection power now!! So, Paul continues with his list of things we need to “know.” We need to know that our old man died with Christ, and was buried with Christ. But we also need to know that a new man has been raised with Christ.

We see this in Romans 6: 1-5, 8-11.

1. Jesus’ death had a unique purpose.

We know that “the wages of sin is death.” Every person dies because every person is a sinner. We don’t have a choice in whether we die and we constantly are doing everything we can to keep from dying. We want to live, but ultimately it’s a losing battle.

None of us would choose death. I certainly am not planning on dying today, neither am I planning on dying anytime soon (or else I would not be preparing for retirement).

But Jesus died - not because he had to. It was a choice. He chose to die. And he chose to die because he had no sin for which he had to die. He died for our sins and to pay the debt of our sin.

But once you have paid a debt, it is over and you move on. So did Jesus. When he died and had paid the debt of our sin, there was no further reason for Jesus to remain dead. God had other plans for him!!!

So, Jesus came back to life.

Look at verses 6:9-10

As Paul talks about in Romans 5:12, 14, 17, 18 the old man represented by the first Adam – death reigns in sin and with that comes judgment and condemnation.

In the second Adam (Jesus) life reigns in salvation and there is no more condemnation (Romans 8:1).

2. Jesus’ resurrection has an immediate power.

Jesus did not come back to life on Sunday morning. He was already alive when they discovered the grave was empty. The stone was not rolled away for him to get out, but for us to go in.

I believe that Jesus was raised back to life soon after his burial. Again, there was no reason for him to stay dead, God had plans for him.

When we recognize that our old man has died with Christ and was buried with Christ, then we have the immediate power of the resurrected life to come and give us eternal life.

That is immediate. Christ comes into us with his life and power that has conquered sin and death.

Our physical DNA tells me what I’m going to be in the natural. Our spiritual DNA tells me what I will be like spiritually.

My physical being begins with life and immediately starts dying and eventually dies. My spiritual being starts with death and immediately starts living and will never die.

3. Jesus’ resurrection has an ongoing presence.

The very resurrection of Jesus promises me a “newness of life” in the very present. Verse 4

This “newness of life” is not something we only get after our death. Quite the contrary. It is what we currently – in the present – have.

The word “newness” here refers to life’s quality and character.

Note these “new” things God gives us:

- a new heart – Ezk. 36:26
- a new spirit – Ezk. 18:31
- a new song – Psalm 40:3
- a new name – Rev. 2:17
- a new creation – II Cor 5:17
- a new creature – Gal. 6:15
- a new man – Eph. 4:24

Our physical DNA gives us the ability to sin. Our new DNA gives us the ability to have the very life of Christ in us.

Let me add: the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very element that separates us from all other faiths. We believe in a risen, living, reigning, indwelling Christ.

This current presence gives us great hope:

1. For individuals who “fall” – we can continually be renewed in our spirit. And I need this every day. Every day a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit. As Dr. Jerry Bridges said, “I need a daily allocation of the gospel.” Yes, I need daily to be forgiven, reminded that the old man is buried and filled afresh with the risen life of Jesus.
2. For churches that die – Ezk. 37 reminds us that dry bones can become a mighty army when the spirit blows on them and in them. No church is beyond a fresh work of the Spirit.

We are new persons.

Prior to his conversion, Augustine lived with a mistress. After his conversion, she met him on the street:

“Aurelio, Aurelio,” she calls out to him. He continues walking, ignoring her calls. She runs to him, grabs him: “Aurelio, what is the matter? It is I.” To which he responds: “The matter, dear lady, is that *it is not I.*”

Was it Augustine? In one sense, yes. In another sense, no. He was a new man. The old man, the old unregenerate Augustine, had died to sin. He was buried. But a new man, the regenerated Augustine, was alive to God by the resurrection of Jesus Christ in Him.