

**Why the resurrection of Jesus Christ matters (Part 3) -
Our transformed lives¹
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Bible verses

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.**

Romans 8:9-11

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, **the Spirit is life because of righteousness.** 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.

Colossians 2:12-13, 3:1-4

¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which **you were also raised** with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made alive together with him**, having forgiven us all our trespasses ...

3:1 If then you have been **raised with Christ**, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Ephesians 2:4-6

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and **raised us up with him** and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...

¹ For a very helpful overview of this area (and much else about the resurrection and its impact) see the excellent book by Sam Allberry, *Lifted: Experiencing the resurrection life* (IVP, 2010) esp ch 2, "Transformation", which I have relied on in preparing today's talk.

Outline

-implications of the resurrection

- Cosmic
 - Justification
 - Today- Transformation!
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- A puzzle: if we are forgiven by Jesus' death for sins, why not just go on sinning?
 - The released prisoner
 - The answer: when you are forgiven because of Jesus' death on the cross, you don't just get your slate of wrongs wiped clean- what happens is that you die, and you are resurrected, and you get a **whole new life**! And that is because the only way you can be forgiven your sins, is if you are *united* to Jesus, if you have put your trust in Jesus so completely that what happens to Jesus, happens to you
 - See Romans 6:3-4, Col 2:12-13, Col 3:1-3 –died with Jesus, raised with Jesus!
 - What does it mean to focus on the “things above”? See Col 3:12-14
- ¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
- And we are not alone: we have the powerful Spirit at work! See Rom 8:10-11
 - how is it that someone who has been forgiven by Jesus' death for sins, doesn't now just turn around and start sinning? The answer seems to be this: that the only person who has had their sins *truly* forgiven, is the person who has *truly* handed their lives over to Jesus. Such a person is so joined to Jesus by faith that they are now dead to their old lives, and they have been raised to a new life, indwelt by the Spirit, and they are being transformed now into greater godliness and more and more to look like Jesus
 - not perfect, but on the way! And looking forward to the end time when our bodies will be raised and spend eternity with the risen Jesus