

Realities of the Resurrection

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a **flexible guide** that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God's Word.

Message Summary

While the New Day Church family is reading through the bible chronologically in 2017 and hearing sermons each week based on the material we have already read, Resurrection Sunday warrants an opportunity to talk specifically about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. All four Gospels have an account of the resurrection of Jesus. Oftentimes Easter Sunday focuses on these specific passages. However, while we read Luke 24 in worship, we focused our attention on the realities of the resurrection. In other words, if the resurrection of Jesus Christ is true, how does that impact our lives today?

The Apostle Paul, formally Saul of Tarsus an enemy of the church, knew the resurrection had serious implications for his life. Paul was so convinced of the resurrection of Jesus that he ended his tirade against the Christian community, became a follower of Jesus, planted the majority of the churches in the known world, and ultimately died a martyr's death all for the sake of His great Name! Paul knew life in Christ had new realities. Therefore he shared some of these realities with the church at Rome.

In Chapter 5 of Romans, Paul had just finished telling the church that all die in Adam but all live in Christ. He said that where sin increased, grace increased all the more. Even in saying this, Paul knew that the question might arise, "Well since God gives grace, then why can't we live it up and sin like we want to knowing God will forgive us?" So Paul took some time to address this concern. Regarding Paul's address in Romans 6, one author said, "One of the greatest problems in evangelical Christianity today is the pervasive influence of what we call 'Antinomianism'. Antinomianism says, 'I am saved by faith, therefore I never have to be concerned in the slightest about obeying the law.' Antinomianism says that the commandments of God have no binding influence on my conscience. That is not just a distortion of Christianity, it is a fundamental denial of Christianity. Yet this notion is commonplace in Christian circles."

For Paul, Antinomianism is utterly unthinkable for a true believer. This is why he said, "*by no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?*" This is a question for us as well. How can we say we are Christians and continue to live in sin? Better yet, how can we say we believe that Jesus rose from the dead in power and new life and continue to live in bondage, or alive to sin? As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week, examine these questions and the questions on the next page and prepare to discuss your answers. As Christians, we are called to no longer allow sin to reign in our bodies and to walk in newness of life. These are realities of the resurrection!

Message Outline

Three realities of the Resurrection:

1. We died to sin in Christ.
Christ's death for sin became:
 - Our death to sin.
 - Our freedom over sin.
2. We are alive to God in Christ.
 - Jesus is alive!
 - We will live with Christ forever.
 - We have power to live for Christ today.
3. We are dedicated to righteousness in Christ.
 - We began in grace.
 - We continue in grace.
 - We will be completed by grace.

Therefore, let's...

1. Rejoice in our freedom from the bondage of sin.
2. Live in the power of the resurrected life.
3. Cling to Christ in faith as our only hope of righteousness.

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Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Romans 6:1-14:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

Weekly Prayer Focus

• Church:

- Pray as we seek to identify additional elders to lead us into the future.
- Pray about going on a global mission trip this year.
- Pray as we seek to raise up additional leaders who will multiply our Missional Communities.
- Pray for our worship space.
- Pray for our finances.
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- _____

• Local:

- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
- _____
- _____
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• Global:

- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for new workers on the mission field.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
- Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.
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