

Dgroup Discussion Guide for April 1, 2018

Believe in the Resurrected Christ to Live the Resurrected Life

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 5: 3 - 19

Jesus has Risen! He truly has risen . . . but let us remind ourselves why there had to be a resurrection.

Our greatest problem is SIN. And the ONE solution is for Jesus to bring us salvation through his crucifixion, death and resurrection. His resurrection proves that HE is THE Messiah, the Son of the Living God and that He has power over sin and death.

How do we share in this resurrection? We have to BELIEVE in the Resurrected Christ and accept Him as Lord over our life.

To believe in the resurrected Christ is to believe in the Gospel. 1 Corinthians 5: 3-4 says ***Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day just as the Scriptures.***

1. We have to believe that Jesus DIED for our sins because of His great love for us. It was because of this great love for us that He gave up His diety to be born a man. . . and to suffer and die for our sin.
2. We are sinners. Jesus had no sin and yet He came to become payment for our sin. Romans 3:23 says ***For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.***
3. Sin has eternal consequences. Romans 6:23 says ***“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.*** The eternal consequence is eternal death. Revelation 21:8 says ***but for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral person and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.***
4. ONLY JESUS can save us from the penalty sin. John 1:29 says ***the next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said “behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*** Furthermore Jesus Himself tells us ***I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the father but through Me.*** (John 14:6)
5. Jesus died, was buried and on the third day he rose from the dead. Proving He has power over death.

When we say we believe in Jesus, then we should embrace all these points of the Gospel. To embrace this is to admit that Jesus is the ONLY way we can be saved from hell. We have to want Him in our life so that we can live the resurrected life as promised in the Bible. It is when we receive Jesus then we are born again and we then become a child of God. (John 1:12-13) When we are born again we then become a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

But, How do we live a resurrected life?

Romans 8:29 gives us the purpose why we are saved ***to become transformed to the image of His Son.*** This is God’s ultimate plan for us. We have to be Christ-like, meaning we have to emulate Jesus in His selflessness and humility. It is when we do this that we begin to live a resurrected and transformed life. A resurrected and transformed life is a life of victory and abundance, not defeat and death.

The question we should ask ourselves then should be – Are we living a resurrected life? Are we living our life as a transformed and new creation? If not, then maybe we have not completely put our faith in the Resurrected Christ.

When we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, then we join in His resurrection and we become new creations. Galatians 2:20 further tells us ***I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself up for me.***

How does a resurrected life look like? Philippians 2: 3-8 ***Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.***

What is a resurrected life? A life lived with Christ-like maturity. How does that look like? Become SELFLESS AND HUMBLE.

This is not easy. In fact most of us are still full of pride and selfishness. Consequently, if these are our characteristics then we cannot be effective witnesses for Jesus. We cannot tell others of Jesus' great sacrifice and love. We cannot share the gospel.

Living a life of Christ-likeness is a moment by moment, intentional, surrendered life to God. . . and this is what pleases God the most. God is openly biased about favoring the humble and the obedient. Isaiah 66:2 says ***My hand made them; that is how they came to be says the Lord. I show special favor to the humble and contrite, who respect what I have to say.*** (Proverbs 22:4, 1 Peter 5:5-7) Until we learn to be humble and to obey, God will continue to deal with us, continue to mold us with trials, problems and circumstances that will teach us to be humble and obey.

How do we learn this? We learn to be humble, to be selfless and to obey by making disciples. By intentionally making disciples. This is the same way that we will learn to live out our resurrected life, the same way we can become effective witness for Jesus and the same way we will be able to live transformed lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How are you living your life? Are you living a life victorious over sin or are you living a defeated life?
2. What is holding you back from completely surrendering your life to God, so that you can be transformed into the image of Jesus/
3. What are some things you can commit to in order to start living a resurrected life?

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.