

Living the 'Resurrected Life'

The Apostle Paul writes, *If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation* (2 Cor 5.17). True, but we don't always feel that way! Experiencing 'new life' begins with being crucified with Christ. We don't have to live the way we used to, because we're not the person we used to be.

Quick Review (last week)

The 'old person' I used to be 'died' when I trusted Christ.

I'm not the same person I used to be; I'm the 'new me'!

Satan is a 'grave-robber' – he tells us we're still that 'old person'.

We must reckon ourselves dead to sin (Rom. 6.11).

Someone died, and someone came to life!

Rom. 6.5, 8, 11; 2 Cor 5.17; Gal 2.20a; Phil 3.10-11

Training the 'new man'

- Listen to the Spirit (*read His Word*) (Rom. 12.1-2)
- Change 'clothes'! (Eph. 4.22-24; Col. 3.5-10, 12-14)
- Press on! (Phil. 3.12-14)



1. Read Galatians 2.20. Last week we focused on being *crucified with Christ*. But after stating that truth, Paul declares that *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*. The 'old person' Paul used to be had died, but he lived on in the same body. This is where the challenge of the Christian life arises: We are living *physically* in a body that is destined to die because of sin, but *spiritually* (on the inside) we are a 'new person' – God's 'new creation'! Ever felt conflict between the 'flesh' and the 'new you'? Read Rom. 7.15-25. Can you relate to Paul's problem? Have you ever felt the longing he describes in Rom. 8.19-23?
2. In Rom. 6.1-11, Paul exhorts us to 'reckon ourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.' In other words, even if you don't feel particularly 'dead to sin,' *believe* it because God says it. Then in vv12-13, Paul begins with the word 'therefore'. What does this word tell us? *As a result of the fact that we are dead to sin and alive to God*, what do these two verses tell us we *should not* do? What do they tell us we *should* do?
3. Read Phil. 3.10-14. Paul begins v10 by saying that he wants to *know* Christ – that is, to 'know Him intimately.' What does this 'intimate knowledge' entail (the rest of v10)? What does Paul hope to 'attain' as a result of this intimacy with Christ (v11)? [The Greek word translated "resurrection" in v11 is only found here in the NT, and means something like 'the fullness of the resurrection.' The *Living Bible* paraphrases it "one who lives in the fresh newness of life of those who are alive from the dead." How does this affect your understanding of what Paul wanted to *attain*?] Paul goes on (vv12-14) to say that he has not obtained this 'full resurrection life' yet, but he presses on. How does Paul characterize his goal in v14? When will Christians receive their 'prize' or 'reward' for how they have lived their lives for Christ here on earth? Are you living a 'crucified-resurrected' life now that will result in reward when you stand before Christ?