

“I am *Really* Alive – Forever!”

Ephesians 2.1-5

Identity confusion is an epidemic today. Godless relativism (no absolute truth), cultural narcissism (Me, me, me!), and the information explosion have produced a lost generation. Christians have identity confusion, too. Do you know *who you are* in Christ? First off: You are *really* alive!

- You were ‘the living dead’! (Gen. 2.17; Rom. 5.12; 6.23a; Eph. 2.1)
What this means...

What this doesn't mean...

- In Christ, you *have* died!” (Gal. 2.20a; Rom. 6.3-4a; Col. 3.3)
A sinless sacrifice dies our spiritual death
The ‘sting’ of physical death is gone (1 Cor. 15.56; Heb. 2.14-15)
- You are *really* alive – forever – in Christ! (Gal. 2.20b; Rom. 6.8-11)
It's a free gift of grace, received by faith (Eph. 2.5, 8)
You are ‘alive to God’ now, and forever....so act like it!



1. Tracking our physical life is easy: We have a birth certificate, social security card, driver's license, and Facebook sends pics to remind us of where we've been and what we've done. It's harder to track our spiritual life. While we were *physically* alive, we were *spiritually* dead! Let's start with a contrast between a humanistic worldview and a biblical worldview. The atheist says life evolved from non-life (death), and our destiny is death, so life is just a brief experience in the midst of death. This is why an atheist like Bertrand Russell felt “unyielding despair;” Albert Camus (atheist) said that in light of the futility of life, the only serious question is whether or not to commit suicide. Reflect on the emptiness of this worldview.
2. A biblical worldview, by contrast, is from life-to-life! For our origin, see Gen. 2.7; John 1.4; 5.26. Through faith in Christ, our destiny is eternal life (see John 3.16; 5.24; 11.25-26). We receive physical life and spiritual (eternal) life from God! Immediately, our worldview is transformed. Meditate on John 17.3, and what it means to have life.
3. Read Ephesians 2.1-3. In what way were we “dead” before we were saved? How did we get that way? Since we ‘walked’ and ‘lived’ in sinful ways, it obviously *doesn't mean* we had no spiritual capacity; we were disobedient. What in God made spiritual life available to us, and what response on our part transmitted that life to us? See John 1.12; 3.17; 5.24; 6.47; 2 Cor. 5.21; Eph. 2.4-5, 8.
4. This can get a bit tricky. Read Gal. 2.20a, Rom. 6.3-4a, and Col. 3.3. In what way have we “died”? How does a ‘dead person’ die? Apart from Christ, what is our destiny (the wages of sin; see Rom. 6.23)?
5. The important question for our lives is this: What difference does it make that I, as a Christian, am *really* alive -- forever? Is it possible to be ‘hoodwinked’ by Satan into thinking I'm really ‘dead,’ and to live that way? How can we avoid that? Read Rom. 6.8-11. The first command of Paul in the book of Romans is “reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.” What kind of life *can* we live (John 10.10)? What are some ways to make that happen?