

# The Resurrection Of Christ

## Embracing the New Nature Through Christ's Love

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Please turn with me to 1 Peter chapter 1, continuing our series. I'm focusing on verse 21 before moving to new verses. Peter writes, "Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory." This encapsulates the death, burial, resurrection, and glorification of our Lord Jesus Christ—the complete gospel story. He continues, "that your faith and hope might be in God." The gospel, applied to our lives, establishes a right relationship with God through Jesus, rooted in faith and hope.

Peter instructs us on the gospel's effect on believers, showing what a resurrected life looks like from beginning to end, mirroring Jesus' earthly journey. Many today claim a relationship with God but harbor resentment toward Christians. Peter addresses this, emphasizing that being born again transforms not only our relationship with God but also with fellow believers. This is crucial, and Peter lays it out clearly.

Verse 22 says, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." This is an instruction: believers' souls are purified, a past-tense act completed at salvation through Jesus' death on the cross—a once-for-all declaration. Peter refers back to verse 7, where trials purify us like fire, a repetitive theme in Scripture. Like a good parent, God repeats instructions for clarity. This purification is ongoing, occurring in our soul—both spiritual (our inner self) and physical (manifested in our heart, the source of life's issues).

This purification happens through obeying the truth—Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). Verse 2 mentions obedience through the Spirit's sanctification, not our own effort. The Spirit enables us to obey Jesus, producing unfeigned, genuine, pure love—not half-hearted or expecting reciprocity. God's love for us is 100% pure, and our new nature allows us to love likewise. This "love of the brethren" is *Philadelphia*—brotherly love, like family, experienced in the local church where we love purely, reflecting God's love through Christ. Peter repeats "love one another," echoing Jesus' new commandment in John 13:35. This deeper *agape* love is unique to true believers, expressed fervently, like an athlete giving their all. Are we going all in for each other, loving as God loves us? This isn't easy, as we still sin and hurt each other due to our human nature. Our old nature seeks vengeance, but our new nature, enabled by the Spirit, fights against this. The enemy exploits our weaknesses to sow bitterness, but God calls us to love fervently, reflecting Christ's love through humility and mutual support.

This fervent love requires humility to admit our wrongs and consider others' struggles. It fosters maturity, as love, not just knowledge, edifies the body (1 Corinthians 8:1). Maturity shines when we love in word and deed, not just in debates, which can seem childish. God's instructions are clear: love tests and builds our maturity.

Verse 23 states, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." This echoes verse 4's incorruptible inheritance. Our salvation is a miracle, not our doing, birthing us into a new nature through the incorruptible Word—Jesus. Unlike our decaying bodies, this eternal seed connects us to Christ, who lives forever (John 5, John 15). Abiding in Him, we bear fruit, unbound by our corruptible flesh.

Verse 24, referencing Isaiah 40:6, says, "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away." This poetic metaphor explains our temporary, seasonal human life and glory, like wheat flowers that quickly fade, contrasting with the eternal Word.

Verse 25 declares, "But the word of the Lord endureth for ever." Peter's black-and-white clarity contrasts fleeting human glory with Christ's enduring life in us. His Word and promises never pass away, sustaining our new nature. Peter concludes, "And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." Are we living this gospel transformation wholeheartedly, letting our new nature shine?

Jesus doesn't save us just for heaven but to display our new nature here, witnessing to the world. Fervent love carries weight in our conversations, fostering truth, honesty, and maturity. Focusing on Jesus lessens trials' weight, as we trust God's control, even amid persecution for our new nature (Ephesians 3:17). Peter's prayer is for us to be rooted deeply in Christ's love. Let's pray. Father, thank You for Your kind, generous, pure love. You sent Your only begotten Son, who left Your throne to live in perfect obedience, love, and sacrifice. Thank You for His death, burial, resurrection, and return to Your right hand, showing our life's beginning and end. Help us live out this love, strengthening us through trials and defeat. Encourage us to love fervently, trusting Your Word to make Christ's church pure and beautiful, exalting Him. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.