

:: Summary

The resurrection of Jesus is the pre-eminent sign of the restoration God will bring about. Like Jesus, we will be physically raised and receive glorified resurrection bodies. Likewise, the creation will be restored to its perfect order and glory. But resurrection is not just in the future. At the moment of your faith in Jesus, you are united to him in both his death and his resurrection – it's a new birth into a lively hope. Because you have been raised with Christ, the whole orientation of your life is meant to radically shift toward heaven.

:: Share

Think of a time in your life where things dramatically shifted into a whole new way of living because of something new and beautiful, or as the result of significant renewal, or of radically changed circumstances. Share what happened and how it changed you.

:: Explore and Discuss | Colossians 3:1-4, Romans 6:11, Galatians 2:20

There are several affirmations in Colossians 3:1-4. Name one that you will take to heart in the week ahead.

Christ died in our place as a sacrifice for our sin so Paul says you are to "count yourself dead to sin." On a practical level, what is he commanding you to do?

What are some ways Christians do not take sin seriously enough?

Your identity and the way you "see" yourself are forever changed by your resurrection. Christ now lives in you. Can you share a specific example of the way you are "living by faith in the Son of God" in your life right now, or a way you wish to do so?

:: Apply it to Your Life

How has this Resurrection series challenged you to rise up in thought, deed, or vision?

Do you need to put to death anything that affects your rising up to new life such as shame, an old wound or hurt, unforgiveness, disappointment, anger, or ... ?

Is there any aspect of your life where you are not allowing Jesus to reign as Lord (such as specific behaviors, money, attitudes and values, sex, character formation, work, will, etc.)? *Note: This is a risk-taking question requiring your trust of those listening and requiring those listening to not try to fix it, but rather to listen and pray only.*

:: Pray

Pray for each other in light of your responses to the application questions. Ask Jesus for his resurrection power to help you rise up as his disciple into a greater experience of the life he intends for you.

