



Sermon Discussion Guide: Resurrects Life

Series: *Rebel Grace*

Date: 04/12/2026

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:14-20 (The Message)

Opening Prayer

God of reconciling love, you meet us in our distance and call us home. Quiet the noise in us that rushes to judgment. Grow in us holy curiosity—eyes to see, ears to listen, and courage to move toward one another. As we open Scripture, open our hearts. In Jesus' name, amen.

Introduction & Context

This week's message names something many of us feel but rarely say out loud: **alienation**—being cut off from God, from others, and even from ourselves. Paul writes 2 Corinthians to a church dealing with wounded relationships, shallow judgments, and spiritual confusion. Into that messy reality, he offers a surprising claim: Christ died for everyone, “putting everyone in the same boat,” and giving us a “resurrection life” that is better than life lived alone. That's not just a private spiritual upgrade—it's a call into reconciliation and a new way of seeing people.





Discussion Questions

1) Naming Alienation

1. When you hear the word **alienation**, what comes to mind—distance, loneliness, distrust, defensiveness, exhaustion? Where do you notice it most (with God, with others, within yourself)?
2. The sermon suggests alienation can show up even when people aren't physically apart—when we stop seeing one another as fully human. Where do you see that happening in everyday life right now?

2) “Everyone in the Same Boat”

3. Paul says Christ died for everyone, putting everyone “in the same boat.” What do you think that’s meant to *undo* in us—pride, superiority, isolation, self-sufficiency, shame?
4. What’s the difference between “everyone is the same” and “we share the same need for grace”? Why does that distinction matter?

3) A New Way of Seeing

5. Paul says we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. What are your default “fast judgments” (appearance, politics, age, usefulness, vibe, familiarity)?
6. When have you been misread or reduced to a label? What did that do to you—emotionally, spiritually, relationally?

4) Curiosity as a Core Practice

7. The sermon calls judgment “a fast, lazy form of seeing,” and curiosity a holy alternative. What’s one area where you’d like your curiosity to be stronger than your judgment?
8. Curiosity isn't pretending truth doesn't matter—it's refusing to reduce people to caricatures. What might it look like to stay curious *and* truthful at the same time?



5) Reconciliation as the Shape of Grace

9. Paul says God reconciled us and then gave us the task of reconciliation. Where do you feel resistance to that—fear, pride, “they don’t deserve it,” fatigue, “it won’t matter”?
10. The sermon suggests a “rebellion of grace” that replaces distance with service and isolation with reconciliation. What’s one small “rebellious” step toward connection you could take this week?

6) Resurrection Life Together

11. “Resurrection life” is described as a shared life—better than solo living. Where are you tempted to go it alone right now? What would it mean to let someone in?
 12. If the church is meant to be a place where alienation loses its grip, what would that look like *practically* in our community (conversation, welcome, repair, service, prayer)?
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Closing Prayer

Christ of reconciliation, thank you for refusing to leave us alone in our distance. Where we have been quick to judge, slow us down. Where we have kept people at arm’s length, soften us. Where relationships have been strained or broken, give us courage for repair and wisdom for next steps. Teach us resurrection life together—shared burdens, practiced forgiveness, and real friendship. Make us your representatives of grace. Amen.

Key Takeaway

Grace resists alienation. In Christ, we are reconnected—then invited to replace judgment with curiosity and isolation with reconciliation.



Next Step — P.A.R.

Pray: For curiosity.

Thank God for refusing to leave you cut off or alone. Name where alienation has taken root in you—with God, with another person, in your household, or within yourself. Ask Christ to soften whatever has gone hard in you and to grow holy curiosity.

Act: Practicing the Way — Week 8: *Life Together* (Commit to community).

Do one act of service as a household or with a friend this week. As part of that act, replace one judgment with curiosity: ask one more question, listen longer, learn more of someone’s story before deciding what they mean.

Reflect:

Where did you notice yourself making a quick judgment this week? What changed when you chose curiosity instead? Where did you notice alienation—and where did you notice grace resisting it through service, honesty, connection, or repair?

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