

Resurrection Sunday 2016

“Restoration”

2 Corinthians 5:15-21

Pastor Bruce Zachary

intro. I love our community, and love having our Resurrection Sunday service at this beautiful and iconic Camarillo Ranch House. But this house wasn't always this beautiful. We are the beneficiaries of an epic restoration project. While this house has always been amazing, upon close inspection there was need for restoration.

Whenever there are cracks in the wall there is an issue with the foundation. I also love this community, it is amazing, but upon closer inspection it is in need of restoration. We are disconnected from God, family, neighbors, and even self [Cf. Nexus means a connected group or place of connection]. I dream of a community where Christ restores lives: individuals, marriages, families, schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods. Would you like to know how that could happen, and what you can do to make it a reality?

Subject: Restoration through Christ

Object: Be restored, and help others be restored

A. Live for Christ who died for you, and rose again [15] He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again: Res. makes Christianity diff from all other faiths [verifiable evid]

1. Connect with Christ with others: new beginning [v.17] Therefore, if anyone *is in Christ, he is a new creation*; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

a. Invitation to all: if anyone is in Christ: Make Jesus king in every realm of your life: personal, marriage, family, career, community, calling

b. Regeneration - radical renewal: new creation: born of the Spirit. Jesus' resurrection gives hope of new life, spiritual birth leads to power to live for Christ

c. Transformation: old things have passed away; behold all things have become new: God wants to do a new thing in your life, and through you! [We want a fresh start

2. Grow in Christ with others: new restoration [v.18-21]

a. Reconciled to God through Jesus [v.18] [reconciliation 5x v.18-20] **Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ:**

a. Reconciliation means: to restore an enemy to favor. You were God's enemies. Fall [Gen.3] -

> sin -> separates God & man -> how to restore? God = all holy, just, loving, merciful -> Jesus pays penalty at cross for your sin, and the resurrection *proves* that God accepted Jesus' sacrifice -> reality of reconciliation in Christ

b. Right with God by receiving Jesus [21]: *yielding to & following Him* For He (Father) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin (sacrifice) for us: basis of reconciliation is Jesus' sacrifice not us being good **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him:** God's righteousness given to us in Jesus so we can be made right with God, or forgiven of our sin.

a. Consider that you can be right with the glorious God of the universe, who loves you and made a way for you to be restored with Him, to Him, and for Him.

b. *Can experience restoration of individual lives, marriages, families, communities, schools & workplaces.* Starts when you connect with Christ, but must grow in Christ

i. The goal: You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is *the* first and great commandment [Mt. 22:37]

ii. Love God, learn his Word, and live His Word

ii. Weekend large group worship and learn, and smaller groups to grow [50+ CGs]

3. Reach your community for Christ with others: new mission [18-20]

a. A new ministry: ministry of reconciliation [18]

i. And *the* second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself [Mt. 22:39]

ii. Live to see people who don't know Jesus receive Him as their king and be restored

iii. Saturate our community with transformed people who experience authentic community with Christ and others [100s of CGs]

b. A new message [19-20] has committed to us the word of reconciliation [19]: [20] Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God

i. Share the good news of restoration through Christ [Jn. 3:16, 14:6]

ii. God loves you so much that he is begging you to be reconciled to Himself. God has done all that He can - **be reconciled to God:** yield your life to Christ as King

c. A new master [15] Live for Christ who died for you, and rose again

Commit to make Jesus king and live His way and compare quality of life 5,10,15, 20 years from now – marriage, family, career and community [Cf. life which is to come].

Conclusion: Be restored, and help others be restored