

INTRO

“Whatup” / Newbies / Name

Thanks for joining us for Easter ...

**This is might be the closest thing church gets to
throwing a “Rager.” [we get amped!!!]**

For many of us Easter is about putting on fancy
pastel-colored clothes ... go to church and pay respects to
Jesus ...

Then on to the epic Easter brunch with the fam.

If that’s you ... I’m glad you’re here.

**I’m not knocking traditions ... those are great!
[especially the brunch part].**

Or maybe you are anti // Easter bunny, brunches, pastel
clothes.

You can’t wait to shout “He is risen indeed!”

You gotta get your Resurrection Sermon fix for the year.

I’m glad you’re here too.

DON'T GO QUIET

My hope is that today we get captivated in the Easter story.

I hope that we realize that it is something to be celebrated and remembered once a year.

Easter is meant to be a reality we live in as Christians everyday! B/C Easter points us to the resurrection.

Romans 6:4-5

4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his

The Resurrection is eternal life with Jesus today, tomorrow, and forever.

- Often we think of resurrection as the day when Jesus returns or calls us home.
- Who doesn't want to be in heaven one day?? Right!!
 - peace, joy, [the perfect buffet :)]

DON'T GO QUIET

- It's easy to get excited about heaven, but what about the "hell" I might be living in today?
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- Let me assure you ... God cares about that too.
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- See, the reality of the resurrection isn't reserved for heaven.
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- We can live in it now!
- It's what it means to walk in "newness of life"
- But what does that mean?

Romans 6:6-14

6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, **so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.** **7** For one who has died has been set free from sin. **8** Now if we have died with Christ, **we believe that we will also live with him.** **9** We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. **10** For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, **but the life he lives he lives to God.** **11** **So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

12 **Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.** **13** Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. **14** **For sin will**

have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

The Resurrection means victory over sin's power.

- Crazy to think about ...
- Sin has no dominion over us anymore.
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- Now you might be thinking ... "I'm not a bad person. I work hard; don't cheat; don't cuss. I don't need any help." (I'm a pretty good person).
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- But I would say you have mis-diagnosed sin.
- **THE BIG 5 IN AFRICA: Rhino, Elephant, Water Buffalo, Lion, Giraffe. (not meerkats) → That is what everyone is on the lookout for.**
- We all have our own big 5 list of sin that we are on the lookout: addiction, murder, theft, adultery, abuse.
- Maybe that isn't your list ... but you got a list.
- Those things that are the big bad sins, as you see them.
 - People involved in those are bad. They need help.
 - But not me.
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- But sin is more subtle than that. It isn't the big 5 that destroy us ... (little foxes destroy us) ... the seeming insignificant sins that ruin us.
- See, there are deeper motives in our hearts.
- **What do I mean by that?**
- Before there is adultery there is lust in the heart.
 - Jesus says ... it's just as sinful. Adultery is as much the looking as it is the touching.
- Before there is murder there is anger in the heart.
 - Murder is hating long before it results in killing.
- Sin is something that afflicts all of us.
- It corrupts everything we do.
- Even good things.
- For example ...
- Why do we diet and exercise?
 - Good reasons: be healthy.
 - Sinful reasons:
 - Fear of death / sickness.
 - Get attention / people praise us or lust after us.
- Here is another example, Why do we work?
 - Good reasons: provide for ourselves & family / positive contribution to society.

- Sinful reasons: identity in career / power / get more stuff.
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- See how we can turn anything good into sinful pursuits?
 - Marriage / family / recreation ...
- All these things are good ... but sin turns them into ultimate things that define us.
- So being a parent isn't just a calling ... it can easily become the ultimate way we define ourselves.
- Our kids become the barometer of our success in parenthood.
- And so we put tons of pressure on them and ourselves to make sure they turn out a certain way.
- And if they don't turn out the way we hoped it doesn't just grieve us ... it crushes us.
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- You can take out parenthood and fill in the blank ...
- **What is that thing we care about most?**
- **Where does most of your time or money go to?**
- **And what are you really wanting from it?**

[PAUSE]

- This is sin's power over us.
- It drives us to find meaning and purpose apart from Jesus.

DON'T GO QUIET

- **And this is where the power of the resurrection comes in.**
- It means we have risen out of that old way of living.
- We are freed from the ways that sin enslaves us ...
- Our minds have a new perspective on the purpose of parenting, work, and recreation.
- Our hearts have a new desire to live for something greater than ourselves.
- See, the point is that freedom from sin is only half of what we need.
- **We need not only to be freed from sin, but to live for something totally opposite.**

Romans 6:15-19

15 What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, **you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin **have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,** 18 and, **having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.** 19 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more**

DON'T GO QUIET

lawlessness, so now present your members as **slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.**

The Resurrection means we now are free to live in joyful obedience to God.

- **Freedom in Christ isn't just freedom from sin's guilt.**
- **Freedom in Christ isn't just freedom from sin's power.**
- **Freedom in Christ is joy in obeying God and pursuing His righteousness.**
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- Beware the lie that you can make a "decision for Christ" without it changing you.
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- That is a salvation story without any power.
- **It is the cross without the resurrection.**
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- Jesus rose again and ascended to heaven.
- From that place he sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in us // to be his abiding presence.
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- We like the idea that God is with us.
- But too often we diminish him to a security blanket ... something that comforts us when we are afraid or when things get hard.

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- Now, that is true ... He is there to comfort us and be with us when things are hard.
- The point is that I want us to recognize that the Resurrected Christ didn't send the Holy Spirit ONLY to comfort us.
- He gave us the Holy Spirit to bring about ongoing change in our hearts.
- He is the HOLY (holying) Spirit.
- He is changing us in degrees of holiness. Making us more like Jesus.
- This means we grow in surrender to God's will just as Jesus was surrendered to the Father's will.
- This means we are committed to the path of God's righteousness like Jesus was.
- Which is also the Holy Spirit's job ... His job is to lead us.

Romans 8:14-16

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Living in the reality of the Resurrection means we are Spirit-filled, Spirit-led, Spirit-taught.

- These verses are saying that the Holy Spirit teaches us the way of salvation:
 - surrender (led by the Spirit),
 - acceptance (received the spirit of adoption as sons ... teaches us to cry out Abba! Father!),
 - assurance (bears witness),
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- Living in the Resurrection isn't living in fearful obedience of an Angry God.
- We aren't nervous that God is going to change his mind at our next mistake.
- We live in the assurance of our position as children of God.
- We do that because of the Holy Spirit who bears witness.
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- We aren't begrudging children who obey on the surface but really want to break all the rules.
- We delight in all who God is ... including His righteousness.
- We obey with joy!
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- What comes to mind when you hear “obedience to God?”
- Is it, ... “I have to follow a bunch of rules?”
- What about being “free in Jesus?”
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- Yes, in Jesus’ resurrection we are offered freedom.
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- **But make no mistake while it is freedom from sin and death it is NOT freedom to live life on your own terms.**
- To be honest there is no such thing.
- **We are either living free from righteousness and in bondage to sin; OR living free from sin and in bondage to righteousness.**
- There is no middle-ground.
- **That is why salvation in Jesus is such a radical thing.**
- **It isn’t just believing // so that // we can grab all the benefits of the Resurrection.**

Before we can live in the Resurrection we must die by faith in the Cross.

Let’s read again that passage at the beginning of Romans 6...

Romans 6:3-4

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

- **Do you having hard time imagining living for Jesus?**
- **Does the Christian life seem like a life that, frankly, “misses out on a lot of life?”**
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- That is proof that you have yet to put your faith in the cross.
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- Salvation starts with death.
- It is your death to sin.
- It is your death to sin's desires.
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- It is looking at Jesus' death and saying I believe.
- I believe my sin was put on Him.
- I am the sinner (the man/woman of sin) who deserves to die, but Jesus became as a sinner on the cross and died for me.
- He faced God's judgment on the Cross for me.
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- **So, if Jesus died for me ... how do I unite with Him in his death?**
- Through faith. (not through works ... nothing we can do).

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- By faith we are united with Jesus in his death. (That is how you and I die to sin / sinful desires.)
- Our old self ... that man of sin ... through faith ... he dies and is buried.
- That is no longer who we are !!!
- That person is gone ...
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- Then, and only then are we raised to walk in newness of life.
- Through faith in Jesus' death we enter into resurrection life!
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If you haven't done this before ...

- Inviting you to believe in Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Today is the day of salvation.
- Respond by confessing, "I am a sinner ... I need Jesus to save me." "I need to be united with him in His death so I can walk in newness of life!"
- If that is you please come after the service to pray with me over on this side of the stage.

Already following Jesus?

- The cross and resurrection is the movement of our life.
- The Spirit-filled / S-led / S-taught life ... is dying to sin and living to righteousness. Not once ... everyday ... all day.
- We often think of spiritual maturity as having it all together, no more sin.
- Actually, that isn't it at all.

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- It looks more like this ...
- **[MEDIA NOTE: SHOW SLIDE]**
- Spiritual maturity is growing in self-awareness.
 - I am more sinful and broken than I thought.
- Simultaneously it is growing in the knowledge and experience of God.
 - He is more powerful and loving than I realized.
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- See, if we just focus on the cross ... we end up in despair. [only looking at our sin ... not getting to the power of the resurrection over sin.]
- OR, If we just focus on the resurrection we end up in pride. [ignorant of our sin ... think too highly of ourselves]
- BUT! If we are always moving between cross and resurrection ... we end up in freedom. [free from a false image of ourselves and free to behold a greater vision and experience of God].
- **[MEDIA NOTE: TAKE DOWN SLIDE]**
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- As we come to take Communion ...
- This is reminding us that we are united with Christ in his death...
- Blood shed / body broken for us ...
- This not only points to the cross but also the resurrection.
- Through His death we are raised to new life!!!
- Spirit-filled // Spirit-led // obedient to God.

- This is our victory over sin and death!!!
- The Resurrection life is the place we live in today, tomorrow, and forever.