

Resurrection Identity

1 Peter 1:1-25

Discover

Resurrection means raising someone from the dead.
Identity is the knowledge of what we are, our existence.

God sent Jesus to redeem us, so that we will become his sons and daughters. He sends the Holy Spirit to live within our hearts, so that we are able to participate in God's affection for us. We call God "Father." (Galatians 4:4-7)

We are new creations in Jesus. God claims victory over our rebellion through Jesus' death and adopts us into his family through Jesus' resurrection. (2 Corinthians 5:17-19)

The Holy Spirit showed the prophet Ezekiel a vision of a valley filled with dry bones. When the Holy Spirit breathed upon the bones, they became living people. Only after their resurrection did they know God's identity. (Ezekiel 37:1-6)

Resurrection changes everything. Peter said we used to be scattered individuals, and now we are a unified people. We used to be lost in darkness, and now we live in marvelous light. We used to be wicked rebels; now, we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Jesus taught Nicodemus, a Jewish ruler, about spiritual rebirth. No one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born again. We must die to the flesh in order to receive a new birth in the Holy Spirit. The kingdom of God is an unpredictable adventure with the Holy Spirit. (John 3:3-8)

This lesson will help us build the foundation for our faith upon the Rock of Jesus Christ; our identity is in his resurrection life. If we build our lives and families on anything else, we crumble and fall away. (Matthew 7:24-29)



RESURRECTION IDENTITY



1 PETER 1:1-25

Draw

Born Again: fruitful plant - Our Father has given a new birth to our dead spirits through Jesus Christ's saving power. He demonstrates mercy through our living hope grounded in Jesus' resurrection from the dead and eternal life. (1:3)

Son/Daughter: king & children - We are God's adopted children. We overcome the evil desires of our flesh by the power of his Holy Spirit. God is our Beloved Father, and he calls us "sons and daughters." (1:14)

Faithful Friend: Jesus & disciple - We love and believe in Jesus. This faithful friendship with him bears a spiritual harvest of overwhelming joy. Jesus has proven that we can trust him and invite others into a friendship with him. (1:8)

Kingdom Heir: shining crown - We are coheirs with Christ. Our Lord Jesus keeps our inheritance with him in heaven until Judgement Day. Our salvation is secure; we are hidden in Christ and protected by his power through faith. (1:4-5)

Battle-Ready Warrior: sword & shield - We are warriors who maintain hopeful, alert, and sober minds. We are prepared for attacks of the enemy and desire our King's return. Our confidence is in our Lord Jesus' extraordinary grace. (1:13)

Holy Priest: anointing oil - Jesus is our Healer and Deliverer. As we practice holiness, his power and grace overflow through our lives into those around us. We want to be like our Savior Jesus who is righteous, merciful, kind, noble, excellent, marvelous, courageous, pure, and just. (1:15-16)

Anointed Ambassador: bridge over river - Jesus is our Master of Sorrows and Messiah King of Glory. He sovereignly scatters us throughout the earth to reveal our Father's glory through his Son by the power of his Holy Spirit. We are set apart to participate in his mission. (1:1-2)

Discuss

Read 1 Peter 1:5-7. Refining is a process that removes impurities from a substance. How do trials and suffering refine our faith? Why does genuine faith tested by suffering result in greater praise of God? How are you suffering?

Read Galatians 2:19-21. How is our new birth in Christ described? How is it possible for Jesus' life to live within us? Why can we never be completely obedient to the law?

Read Philippians 2:13-18. How are faith, perseverance, and joy related to being children of God? What are some ways the culture of this world opposes faith and trust in God? What are some challenges to remaining faithful in this life?

Read Romans 6:8-11. We have not only died and been reborn, we also have victory over the power of evil. How did the devil control you before you became Jesus' disciple? What have you learned about your new life?

Disciple

Let's get practical. Look back through these seven identity statements about disciples. Which ones are you living out? Which ones are new? Take some time alone or in your gathering to pray through these identities. Embrace each one, praise God for what he has done, and pray for boldness to share these resurrection identities with others.

Dedicate

Father, thank you for being our Sovereign Creator, Compassionate Father, Trustworthy Companion, Messiah King, Master Commander, Generous Provider, and Almighty God. Please help us see ourselves in Christ the way you do. Please help us share with others these resurrection life identities, in Jesus' name and for his glory we pray, amen.