

**Easter “Raised With Christ”**  
**Ephesians 2:1-7**  
**April 4, 2021**

The cross and resurrection are two sides of the same saving work of God.

**Ephesians 2:4-7**

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

**Ephesians 2:1-3**

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

When we are dead in trespasses and sins, we are without the ability to do anything but sin.

**1 John 2:15-17**

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.”

To be a sinner is to run in a certain direction on a certain kind of power that is always oriented to what is in it for me.

*How we are saved?*

**Ephesians 2:4-5**

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

“But because of his great love for us”

“made us alive with Christ”

**Ephesians 2:6**

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

You cannot be “*with*” or “*in*” someone that is not alive.

Grace communicates not only our being undeserved but our inability.

**Ephesians 2:7**

in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

**Colossians 3:1-4**

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

You will be a trophy of God’s kindness.

How does being alive with Christ, secured in heaven, with appointed future glory impact the way we think and live?

Jesus took your place so that you could join him in His. Through the resurrection, it is not just Jesus’ death He offers you, but His life, power, future and privilege.

### **Grow Group Discussion Questions**

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- As you have thought about the cross and Jesus’ sacrifice in salvation, how have you connected the resurrection to the overall work of Jesus? Did this message help you see the resurrection as also part of God’s plan of salvation?
- Ephesians 2:4-7 offers the idea that if we are made alive with Jesus, that we will also be with Him and He will be with us from that moment on. How does this comfort you? How might this also challenge and change you?
- Resisting the impulse to feel guilty, what qualities and characteristics might our lives grow into because of the new life and power available to us by the resurrection? Which one excites you? How is the resurrection inviting you into a freer life?
- Has the certainty of eternal life with Jesus caused you to make any new priorities? How might it? What are you dealing with right now that could be helped by the truth of the resurrection?
- How can your Grow Group encourage you to apply this message to your life this week?