

With the Resurrection Jesus, everything is changed... and that change is available to you through Jesus Christ. And to the creation itself, when you and I begin living in our calling as children of God... garden keepers... in the image of His Son.

How Easter Changes Everything

Jerry Cisar — April 21, 2019

Text: Isaiah 65:17-25 & 2 Corinthians 5:17

Introduction: An Amazing Promise; An Astonishing Claim

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Read all of Isaiah 65:17-25. What stands out to you? Identify some of the poetic language. What does this mean? What is Isaiah trying to paint a picture of?
- In light of the previous answers, what do you make of Paul's claim in 2 Corinthians 5:17? Is it surprising? If so, why? If not, why not?
- Why is it necessary, in order for new creation to begin, that "One die for all"? Why did all need to die?
- How does Jesus' death display a character of humility in God expressed in acts of love? According to 2 Cor. 5:14-15, what kind of life changes does it call us to?
- Explore the questions in the outline under II.B.ii. How might you apply these questions to your own life? Can this be helpful?
- How does baptism give us a picture of what happens to us in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus?
- What does it mean to begin living in the life of Jesus' resurrection now? Why and how does this have an impact on creation itself?

I. One Love

A. One love compelled Paul and needs to compel us! 2 Cor. 5:14-17

i. 1 John 3:16

ii. 1 John 4:9-10

To live the life for which Christ died *that* we might live is to no longer live for ourselves but for him who died for us and was raised again!

iii. What does all this have to do with that glorious vision that Isaiah had?

B. Love means reconciliation! (5:18ff)

C. The only way to live in the One Love is to be joined into One Death and One Resurrection!

II. One Death

- A. Death, according to Paul, is the only way to achieve love.
 - i. Jesus has an entirely different love language.
 - ii. The reason the present world is so problematic is because of the desires of those who live in it. We live for ourselves.
- B. One died for all, therefore all died.
 - i. This is what is pictured in baptism (Rom. 6:3-4).
 - ii. How can we identify if we are living for ourselves or others?
 - a) What drives me? What is my life centered around?
 - b) What do you talk about most?
 - c) What would most disappoint you?
 - d) Who do you live to please?
 - e) What makes you sad, or depressed, or angry?
- C. To walk in this one love that will transform creation, we must die the one death, but we must also enter the one resurrection.

III. One Resurrection

- A. Jesus is “the firstborn from the dead.”
 - i. Baptism is a picture of how we become part of the new creation (Rom 8:3-5 NET).
 - ii. Through faith in Christ we go through the death and resurrection in Him.
 - iii. Baptism is the first act submission to a life of dying and rising. But not the last step. It is a picture of what our life will continually be about.

- B. Paul describes this new creation life:
 - i. Galatians 2:20
 - ii. Gal. 5:22-23
- C. When we walk in the resurrection life of Jesus, it begins to transform the world around us (Rom. 8:19-21)
- D. John’s Gospel has its own way of communicating the start of this new creation in the resurrection of Jesus.
 - i. John 1:1 and Genesis 1: 1
 - a) John 19:41
 - b) John 20:1-16

Jesus was not the gardener she suspected, but he is the gardener of the New Creation... He will not fail like the first, but will make it very fruitful.

- c) John 15:1, 4-5