

Raised With Christ

Romans 6:1-7

The Resurrection is the key to unlocking your truest self

We live in the Age of Authenticity, where “be yourself” is the defining advice in life, love and career. We want to live authentic lives, marry authentic partners, work for an authentic boss, and vote for an authentic president.

—Adam Grant, New York Times

Identity means having a stable, core sense of who you are, day in and day out, in different settings and times.

I. THE DEATH OF OUR TRUE SELVES

“For we know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that sin’s dominion over the body may be abolished, so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin.” (Romans 6:6)

“Just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned...” (Romans 5:12)

Why have people in our modern world become so perverted? Because both consciously and unconsciously [we] are dominated by the fear of death. [Our] greed for life is really [our] fear of death; and the fear of death finds expression in an unbridled hunger for power. “You only live once!” we are told. “You might miss out on something!”

This hunger for pleasure, for possessions, for power; the thirst for recognition through success and admiration—that is the perversion of modern men and women. That is [our] godlessness. The person who loses God makes a god out of himself. And in this way a human being becomes a proud and unhappy mini-god.

—Jurgen Moltmann¹³

II. THE BURRIAL OF OUR TRUE SELVES

(v.1) What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means!

(v.16) Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

“Sin is abiding in something other than Jesus to give us significance and joy.”

—Rankin Wilbourne, Union with Christ

“Sin is building your identity on anything besides God.”

—Soren Kierkegaard

“I was literally sitting there and thinking about killing myself and at that exact second I’m like, ‘I’m nothing, what do I do anymore and no one gives a \$&!% about me anymore without this.’ ”

—Rhonda Rousy, Former UFC Champion

What I heard [in Rhonda] had nothing to do with losing a fight. This is about a person who had found a definition of herself that she liked. ‘I like this. I like being the baddest woman on the planet. I like the fact that I’m a superstar. And everyone likes me now for that reason...And if I’m not this, people don’t like me, and I don’t like me.’

—Mike Greenburg, ESPN

Since we have fashioned this persona to ensure that our life brings what we want and sometimes need, we cling to it long past its value to us. We rely on this image we've created, yet the outcome of letting it rule us is not so desirable. It turns into defensiveness and resistance. It's the source of anger, fear, and shame. It causes us to bristle and brood, worry and fret.

We clamor for attention and validation. We are discontent. We exert power and manipulate. We are independent and stubborn. We become attached to our strengths and minimize our shortcomings. We lose track of our real purpose and strive to please. We sometimes act as if, and even believe, the whole world revolves around us.

Basically, the fruit of our made-up persona is self-centeredness, self-reliance, and self-protection. Sound familiar? Yeah, me too.

—Marilyn Vancil, *Self to Lose Self to Find*
(p.39-40)

III. THE RESURRECTION OF OUR TRUE SELVES

“I discovered that the law’s commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead.” (Romans 7:10)

Romans 6:5

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Following Jesus is far less about morality, and
for more like a marriage!

Being United to Jesus by trusting him at least means...

- What's true of Jesus is now true of you.
- God is not dealing with the old you any longer. When he looks at you He sees Jesus.

- When he was placed in the ground, your old self was placed in the ground.
- When you pray, the Father hears you as he would hear his son

- Everything in Jesus' account is now yours—and all your debt he absorbed.
- Because of the resurrection, death is only a doorway into a life you could never imagine, and the love you've always dreamed of.

- You can be honest with God/others about your real struggles, and who you really are because the risen One will never leave you nor divorce you.
- When God looks at you, He doesn't see a life filled with failures, he sees the faithfulness of His only begotten Son.

- His Spirit lives within you
- You don't have to prove yourself anymore

Romans 6:1-2

“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?”

Romans 6:3

“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

Romans 6:6-7

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin — 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.