

Alive to Live

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 2.
- B. The basic crisis today is an identity crisis.
- C. Paul sets forth exactly who we are in Christ.
- D. Paul identifies us with what Jesus has gone through. (Romans 6)

II. The Christian is alive in Christ.

- A. We are no longer alienated and afraid of God in this—God is seen not as an enemy, but a friend.
- B. We have been joined to Christ.
- C. We are fundamentally changed manifesting itself in different outlooks, attitudes, etc.

III. The Christian is able to draw on resurrection life---loving the unlovable, enduring the unendurable, forgiving the unforgivable, etc.

IV. We have been made to sit with Him in heavenly places. (Hebrews)

- A. This means we are to rest in Christ.
- B. We let Him bear the pressure and the problems.
- C. In rest, we wait for every authority to be subdued to Christ.
- D. One of the greatest struggles of the Christian life is the slowness of God, but we can rest in peace knowing He is working out His plan.

V. Observations.

- A. These facts are true Christianity.
- B. These three facts are already true, and there is no further that he can go—it may not be experienced though because of ignorance or because of the love of the flesh.
- C. These facts are realized through faith.

Application questions:

1. What three ways does our identity with Christ manifest itself in our spiritual life?

2. What does it mean to have rest in Christ?

3. How do we explain the reality of sin in the face of the reality of this transformation?
