

**Easter, The Resurrection
New Identity – Part 1
April 3-4, 2021
Dr. Jeffrey Allen Love**

“Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead!” Luke 24:5–6 (p.807)

The Resurrection Of Jesus Gives Me A New Identity.

“...When you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own...” Ephesians 1:13b

1. Let go of my old identity.

“Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception.” Ephesians 4:21–22 (p.897)

“...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (p.884)

2. Live in my new identity.

“Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.” Ephesians 4:23 (p.897)

“...everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.” 1 Corinthians 15:22 (p.880)

Next Step:

_____ I’m choosing a New Identity in Jesus today.

_____ I’m considering New Identity in Jesus.

_____ I’m living in my New Identity in Jesus and want to continue to grow.

_____ I’ve made a decision to never receive a New Identity in Jesus.



ONE VOICE

Discussion/Groups Guide from the Weekend Talk
From the Weekend Talk of April 3-4, 2021
New Identity - Part 1: “Easter, The Resurrection”

Life Groups use these questions to go deeper into what we talked about this weekend. Dig into them so you will be ready for the discussion at your Life Group. If you are not in a Group, find out more at www.alivechurch.com/groups.

You can also use this guide to discuss the Talk with your family or friends.

Conversation Starters

- What Easter traditions—if any—did your family keep?
- When did you first realize that Easter was not all about bunnies and candy?
- How do you feel after getting a new haircut you love, or new clothes that make you look good, or after receiving a positive compliment?
- How are you different today than you were 1, 2, 5, or more years ago?

Quick Review

- Looking back at your Talk Notes, was there anything you heard in the service that stood out, challenged you, or maybe even confused you?

Discussion Starters from the Weekend Talk

Refer to the Talk Notes and related Bible verses from this Weekend's Talk Notes.

In his Easter Talk, Pastor Jeff Love reminded us that...

- **The resurrection of Jesus gives me a new identity**
- See Luke 24:5-6 (p.8807) and 2 Corinthians 5:17 (p.884) and Ephesians 1:13 (p.895).
 - Imagine what it would have been like to be there in that moment of Luke 24:5-6.
 - Have you ever "missed" Jesus because you were looking "among the dead?"
- Who now identifies us as "his own"?
 - It is through the Holy Spirit (part of the Trinity) that we have our 'passport' to a relationship with God and eternity with Him in heaven.
 - And He is within us (Romans 8:26-27 (p.862)) helping us day by day.

To embrace this new identity in Jesus, I must:

1. **Let go of my old identity.** (Ephesians 4:21-22 (p.897))
 - Have you or anyone you've known gone through a life-changing transformation? Maybe it was physical (weight loss; fitness?), dependency situation (drugs, alcohol?), relationship (unhealthy family/friend situation?), work (toxic environment?).
 - What brought about the change?
 - What was different about you/them after the change?
 - What are some of the "false foundations" people try to build their lives upon?
 - For followers of Jesus:

- What part of your old life did you let go once you gave your life to Christ?
 - How did that make you feel?
- How did others react? (i.e. did you lose friends because you no longer participated in sinful actions?).
- Is there anything you still need to let go of?
- For everyone:
 - What steps can we take to “throw off” our old life
 - Knowing that we are all sinners and fall short of God's glorious standards, what do you need to work on and what would be the positive outcome when you do?

2. Live in my new identity. (Ephesians 4:23-24 (p.897); 1 Corinthians 15:22 (p.880))

- Ephesians 4:23 sounds a lot like Romans 12:2 (p.866), the key verse from our Alive Church Life Transformation Bible.
 - What about us is renewed?
 - Who are we created to be like? (See also Genesis 1:26-27 (p.3)).
- See also Ephesians 1:13 (p.895).
 - Who now identifies us as “his own”?
 - It is through the Holy Spirit (part of the Trinity) that we have our ' passport' to a relationship with God and eternity with Him in heaven.
 - And He is within us (Romans 8:26-27 (p.862)) helping us day by day.
- See also Galatians 3:27 (p.892).
 - This ties back into our Conversation Starter question above about “new clothes.”
- We are not meant to live this new life alone. (1Thessalonians 5:11 (p.907))
 - That is a huge part of what the church is here for. Your part is to be connected to the body, as a participating/serving partner in ministry. Some ways to do this are by ...
 - Being part of a Life Group.
 - Serving on a Team.
 - All of this helps us make sure we look after one another, we encourage each other, we help each other, and remind each other we have a new identity in Christ Jesus.

Digging Deeper

Regarding our “old sinful nature”....

- Paul discusses this struggle in Romans 7:14-25 (p.862).
 - It is important to admit when you are struggling and reach out for prayer, from our mentors, life groups, prayer partners, etc.
 - Prayer is our weapon of choice and scripture is the ammunition.
 - Note how Jesus responded to Satan in Matthew 4:1-11 (p.735) during his temptation.

Regarding our "new life"...

- Read Matthew 25:14- 30 (p.736) - The parable of the talents.
 - We have been given a new identity - a clean slate - a new start through Christ. How does this parable reflect what we are supposed to do with this 'new me'?
- We have launched ALL IN at Alive Church. Are we ALL IN for Christ?
- There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ (Romans 8:1 (p.862)) but we need to be all in for Christ and use the gifts he has given us for His glory and kingdom.
 - So what can we do to support those of our group who are struggling here?
- Read Romans 6:3-11 (page 861).
 - What similarities do you see in this passage related to Ephesians 4:21-23?
 - What descriptors does Paul use for our new life in Jesus?

Next Step

Next Step: ____.

- Use the link on the app or go to your Connection Card at www.alivechurch.com/card to indicate you are taking this Next Step so that we can pray for you.

What's Ahead

- **This weekend our series continues: "New Identity" as we consider our new identity in Christ.**
- **Have you signed up for our Alive Church Newsletter?**
 - Sign up here: www.alivechurch.com/newsletter

* The Life Transformation Bible is the New Living Translation of the Bible, including many useful tools to help you better understand God's Word, including our own Alive Church Life Transformation Discipleship Plan. They are available FREE. Let us know if you'd like to have one. We have a Kids Edition of the Bible, as well.