



ROMANS

Strong faith for life



Paul talks about these same things in all his letters, but part of what he says is hard to understand...
2 Peter 3:16 (CEV)

Dead Christianity:

- ...Is full of expectations but lacks excitement.
- ...Is full of information but lacks dedication.
- ...Is full of desire but lacks demonstration.
- ...Is full of intention but lacks motivation.
- ...Is full of promise but empty of power.

But God showed how much he loved us by having Christ die for us, even though we were sinful. 9 But there is more! Now that God has accepted us because Christ sacrificed his life's blood, we will also be kept safe from God's anger. Romans 5:8-9 (CEV)

For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. 11 So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God. Romans 5:10-11 (NLT)

You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we're in—first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death. That sin disturbed relations with God in everything and everyone, but the extent of the disturbance was not clear until God spelled it out in detail to Moses. So death, this huge abyss separating us from God, dominated the landscape from Adam to Moses. Even those who didn't sin precisely as Adam did by disobeying a specific command of God still had to experience this termination of life, this separation from God. But Adam, who got us into this, also points ahead to the One who will get us out of it. 15-17 Yet the rescuing gift is not exactly parallel to the death-dealing sin. If one man's sin put crowds of people at the dead-end abyss of separation from God, just think what God's gift poured through one man, Jesus Christ, will do! There's no comparison between that death-dealing sin and this generous, life-giving gift. The verdict on that one sin was the death sentence; the verdict on the many sins that followed was this wonderful life sentence. If death got the upper hand through one man's wrongdoing, can you imagine the breathtaking recovery life makes, absolute life, in those who grasp with both hands this wildly extravagant life-gift, this grand setting-everything-right, that the one man Jesus Christ provides? Romans 5:12-17 (MSG)

- Being made right with God enables us to experience the life of God.

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 walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4

It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With His Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's! Romans 8:10-11 (MSG)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:10 (ESV)

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. 25 "All this I have spoken while still with you.

26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:23-26 (NIV)

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

"But I will send you the Counselor—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. 27 And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry. "I have told you these things so that you won't abandon your faith. John 15:26-16:1

"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. 21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. John 17:20-23 (NLT)

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control... Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

The Importance Of Jesus' Death And Life:

His Death: Changes where I'm going.

His Life: Changes who I am.

His Death: Allowed me to become a Christian.

His Life: Enables me to be the Christian I've become.

His Death: Made Heaven my home.

His Life: Gives this life meaning.

His Death: Got me out of Hell and into Heaven.

His Life: Gets God out of Heaven and into me.

Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, 1 Corinthians 6:19 (NLT)

His Death: Forgave my sin.

His Life: Gives me power over sin.



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

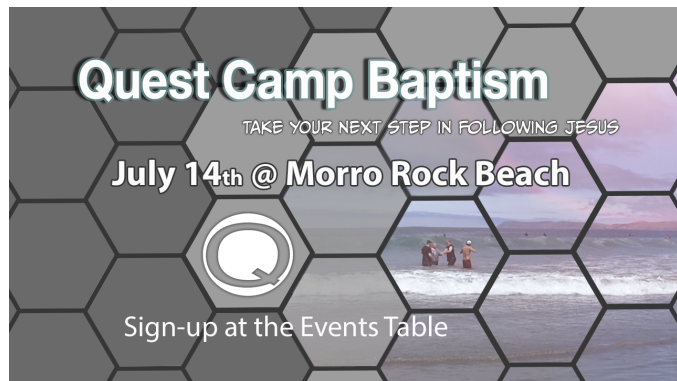
Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Go over the points under the sub-heading "Dead Christianity". Do you struggle with Dead Christianity?
- Why do you think people go through life without experiencing the abundant life that Jesus gives?
- How do we experience the Life of Jesus' resurrection? (Hints: Remain in me, Holy Spirit, etc)
- Talk through the points under the sub-heading: "The importance of Jesus' death and life".
- How does Jesus' resurrection change who we are?
- How does the life Jesus gives enable us to live the Christian life?
- This is an important question - Do you experience God's power over sin. What does that mean to you?

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Today's Talk..



The Remedy to Dead Christianity

Sunday, June 23rd, 2024

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