

CHRISTIAN ETHICS ARE RESURRECTION LIFE

Introduction – Because God has raised Jesus from the dead and placed him on his heavenly throne, He has inaugurated the Kingdom of God and the Age to Come. We become a part of His Kingdom and New Creation when we express our faith in the crucified and risen Savior.

A. We experience the promised circumcision of the heart through Christ.

Deuteronomy 30:6: *The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.*

Colossians 2:9-12

1. Jesus embodied all the dimensions of deity in bodily form.
2. Christ's ascension to His heavenly throne allows Him to be the ultimate authority.
3. Baptism, as an act of faith in Jesus' resurrection, is our participation in this hope.

B. A Resurrection Mind Set

Colossians 3:1-4

1. Having a heavenly mind set is focusing on the will of the rightful ruler, King Jesus.
2. Like Christ died and was raised to new life, so we must die to our self-destructive pursuits so we can live.
3. Christ has promised He will return to this world to fulfill His promise of a new creation.
4. The full reality of the life we have in Christ is not apparent to the casual observer because it is spiritually hidden with Christ in God.

C. Christian ethics require Spirit-empowered execution of our sinful old self and its behaviors.

Romans 8:13: *For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.*

Colossians 3:5-11

1. When Jesus returns it will be a time of judgment and wrath for all rebels who oppose His will.

2. With God's help we must stop sexual immorality, various evil desires, and greed.
 3. We must rid ourselves of attitudes of anger, malice, and slander.
 4. We must discard our old way of life like a dirty garment.
 5. We must put on our new self through a renewal of the original image of God.
- D. Resurrection is not only a discarding of our old bodies but a clothing of our new self by God.

Colossians 3:12-14

1. By God's grace we have become a part of the holy, dearly loved, and chosen people of God.
2. Clothe yourselves with God's garments of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.
3. The ultimate virtue is love which can bind the people of God together in perfect unity.
4. We must learn to forgive and bear with other disciples of Jesus.

Conclusion – It is natural for people to be in conflict with one another, to not accept reasonable responsibility for their actions, and to resist the need to change their own character. Because of what God has done for us in Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, now we can change. This is a taste of the life to come where resurrection triumphs over sin and death.

Discussion Questions

1. How can a baptism of faith become a life-transforming experience in Christ?
2. What gives us the ability to change habitual bad behaviors? How have you experienced this?
3. Why is it important for Christians to exhibit unity to a lost world?