

Tradition
Fact
Celebration
Desire/Hope
Power ... ???

There are many people who believe IN the resurrection but very few who are actually **LIVING BY its power.**

Ephesians 1:18,19,20

... having the **eyes of your hearts** enlightened, that you may **know** ... what is the immeasurable **greatness of his power** toward us who **believe**, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he **raised him from the dead** and **seated him** at his right hand in the heavenly places ...

Right here/Right now power of the resurrection: **holy vindication**

Vindication: *approval, encouragement, righteousness, justice, ok-ness*

- Not lost, not damaged, not robbed of, not getting by, not hopeless
- The best is STILL available and STILL yet to come!

Life: slights, setbacks & our sinfulness → ceilings ... tomb-like

- Through it vs. Over/It

Not affecting me (-)
Victory

I Timothy 3:16

... He was manifested in the flesh, **vindicated** by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

Jesus' Vindication:

- a) His **Identity & Authority** → The Son of God

Romans 1:3-4 (NLT)

The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line, ⁴ and **he was shown to be the Son of God** when he was **raised from the dead** by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jesus' Vindication:

- a) His **Identity & Authority** → The Son of God
- b) The effectiveness of **His blood** → satisfy divine justice

Hebrews 9:11-12 (TLB)

He came as **High Priest** of this better system ... He went into that greater, perfect tabernacle in heaven, not made by men nor part of this world, ¹²and once for all took **blood** into ... the Holy of Holies, and sprinkled it on the mercy seat; but it was not the blood of goats and calves. No, he took **his own blood**, and with it he, by himself, made sure of our **eternal salvation**.

Hebrews 7:24

[Jesus] holds his priesthood **permanently**, because he continues **forever**.

The resurrection is God's final and eternal **verdict about Jesus.**

Romans 4:24-25

... It will be **counted** to us who **believe** in him who **raised from the dead** Jesus our Lord, ²⁵who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for **OUR justification** (~*vindication*)

Ephesians 1:3 (NLT)

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with **every** spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are **united with Christ**.

Colossians 3:1-3

If then you have been **raised with Christ**, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and **your life is hidden with Christ in God**

We **unite personally & relationally to **Christ by faith** → True of **Him** = True of **me!****

- **Final verdict and full vindication**
- **Eternal life sentence**

Luke 7:36-40

One of the **Pharisees** asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. ³⁷And behold, a **woman of the city**, who was **a sinner**, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster **flask of ointment**, ³⁸and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.

Live in Agreement with God's Verdict

1) Be completely **sold out for Jesus.**

- **Wanting more OF Jesus rather than more FROM Him.**
- **Keeping the 1st Commandment & the greatest one**

Luke 7:39-40

Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for

she is a sinner.”⁴⁰ And Jesus answering said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he answered, “Say it, **Teacher.**”

2) Be ready to **live out the verdict of vindication**

- The sphere of **blessing** (in Christ) is also a sphere of **battle**.

There are **false teachers**: her past, her reputation, the Pharisee’s ‘verdict’ about her and about God.

- *Whose verdict counts?*

If our enemy cannot keep us from believing in Jesus as the Son of God, he will work to take away our **enjoyment** of Him.

→ Be able to take the **best with the bad**

- a) The best in Christ far outweighs the bad
- b) The bad builds faith, and faith draws me closer to Him

→ **Recognition & Discernment: Source of vindication is an authority (power) in your life.**

- **Can your source of vindication also become a source of accusation?**

Luke 7:41-43 (NIV)

“Two people **owed** money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²**Neither of them** had the money to pay him back, so **he forgave** the debts of both. Now which of them will **love** him more?” ⁴³Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.” “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.

The Parable:

- **AWARENESS** of debt/sinfulness (not the amount)
- **INABILITY: Neither can repay** → both need grace & mercy

The greater our understanding of the **Gospel** & agreement with its **verdict**, the more we live with resurrection power!

- **Our debt is INSURMOUNTABLE and Jesus paid it ALL**
- **By faith, we connect to Christ.**
- **In Him, we are blessed ...**

Luke 7:44-48 (NIV)

Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you, her many sins **have been forgiven**—as her **great love** has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.

3) Beware of false vindication (~assurance).

- Good person with a good reputation
- Having the ‘stuff’ society values & approves of
- Externals
- Pride & self-righteousness

God does not love us through the channels of self-esteem but rather **IN Christ**.

- The greater our understanding of the Gospel & agreement with its verdict, the more we live with resurrection power!!!

Luke 7:49-50 (NIV)

The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

4) Honor Christ and settle it → Jesus is my life!

→ Therefore, I have nothing to lose, no one to impress, & no worries to carry