



# Resurrection is Everything

**ROMANS 10:1-15**

A photograph of a church interior. In the foreground, there is a large, diamond-patterned metal grate, possibly a screen or part of a window. The grate is illuminated from behind, creating a warm, golden glow. In the background, a brightly lit aisle leads away from the camera, with light rays streaming through the grate. The overall atmosphere is warm and spiritual.

# The Church:

The Essence of Who We Are

“If the very existence of the Church is meant to be leaven in the dough, salt in the meal, and light for all those who dwell in the human household, then ecclesial community must accept the obligations that derive from its central function.”

- **Juan Luis Segundo**



“...we are a community of people who have been called into a life-long practice of repentance and transformation that demands that we face our frailties and faults while holding onto a sense of our belovedness.”

**- Brandon Wrencher**



Christ is the Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20)

The Bride of Christ (Eph. 5:27)

The Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27)

Holy Nation & Royal Priesthood (1 Pet. 2:9)

“This is the essence of the church: a people who find their identity in the arms of God (communion), rallied around the tables welcoming each other (community), and sent out into the world with serving hands (commission).”

- JR Woodward // Dan White Jr.



**1** Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire is for Israel's salvation. That's my prayer to God for them. **2** I can vouch for them: they are enthusiastic about God. However, it isn't informed by knowledge. **3** They don't submit to God's righteousness because they don't understand his righteousness, and they try to establish their own righteousness. **4** Christ is the goal of the Law, which leads to righteousness for all who have faith in God. **5** Moses writes about the righteousness that comes from the Law: The person who does these things will live by them. **6** But the righteousness that comes from faith talks like this: Don't say in your heart, "Who will go up into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) **7** or "Who will go down into the region below?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). **8** But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the message of faith that we preach).

**- Romans 10:1-8 CEB**

**9** Because if you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness, and confessing with the mouth leads to salvation. **11** The scripture says, All who have faith in him won't be put to shame. **12** There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives richly to all who call on him. **13** All who call on the Lord's name will be saved.

**- Romans 10:9-13 CEB**

- Resurrection is the foundational truth of the church
  - Church may not look like you expect it to or think it should
- The mission of the church is outward not inward

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Trust and confess.

Confess and trust.

Truth in Christ alone.

How does this make you feel?

How does God seem to you in this?

What is there to notice in your response?



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**14** So how can they call on someone they don't have faith in? And how can they have faith in someone they haven't heard of? And how can they hear without a preacher? **15** And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the good news.

**- Romans 10:14-15 CEB**

This is how the church becomes the hope of the world: by moving into the places where Jesus is not known with love, truth, grace and gentleness.

We will succeed in adding people to the faith family by loving well across the lines that the world would expect to divide us.

# Resurrection is the foundational truth of the church

1 Corinthians 15:19

Our lives marked by Christ's resurrection should result in a self-emptying, sacrificial love, an others-centered worldview, and a God-honoring morality that would be a worldly waste if this life was all we had to live for.

# Resurrection is the foundational truth of the church

## 1 Corinthians 15:19

Do your non-believing friends\* see your life and know something has to be true of what you believe, even if they are not ready to receive it? Would they think that if you were wrong, that you were wasting the only life you had to live?

\*Do you have non-believing friends?

**Church may not look like you expect it to  
or think it should**

# Church may not look like you expect it to or think it should

“...the church is called to be the welcoming committee to the Kingdom, not the keepers of the guest list.”

- JR Woodward // Dan White Jr.



# Church may not look like you expect it to or think it should

## Shifting our posture:

- release our preferences and comfort
- learn a new language (literal, cultural, relational)
- deal with our own junk and fear
- start by listening and speak only from understanding (James 1:19)

**The mission is outward not inward**

Stop coming to church so much!

- serve on a secular board
- coach a team
- stay home and be visible to your neighbors
- rest well
- ...and many other ideas. **MAKE YOUR FEET BEAUTIFUL!**

What can you notice about your response today?  
What is God's invitation to you as you consider it?

Amen