

Living a Resurrected Life – Saved

1. What are the values / principles of the world that has shaped our lives?
2. How do you feel / think about “fairness”?
3. What have you been taught about Jesus’ death on the cross?
 - a. How did you feel about it when it was taught to you?
 - b. How do you feel about it now?
4. Explain briefly what the different theories of atonement – satisfaction, substitution, ransom, victory and moral – mean?
 - a. Which ones resonate with you?
 - b. Which ones don’t make sense?
5. Have you ever felt that a judgement from a court case was “unfair”? Why do you think it was unfair?
6. Do you think that Jesus’ death on the cross was unfair?

“I finally understand now – now that I see him on the cross – he isn’t sacrificing himself to appease God’s wrath... he is showing us what love really means.

Jesus taught us to absorb the hate with love, and not allow it to bounce back into the world.

Jesus is absorbing the sin without returning it. Jesus is holding and carrying our sin, without passing it on.

Jesus took away the sin of the world by taking in hatred and giving back love; by taking in anger and giving out grace; by taking in envy and giving back blessing; by taking in bitterness and giving out warmth; by taking in pettiness and giving back compassion; by taking in chaos and giving back peace; and by taking in sin and giving back forgiveness.

I stand here, amazed. No greater love than this, that a life laid down for the sake of others.”

7. What do you think about the words from the disciple who was at the cross on Good Friday?
8. What do you understand is the difference between a contractual and covenantal relationship?
 - a. What kind of relationship do you have with God? What examples can you think of that demonstrates this?
 - b. What kind of relationship do you think God wants to have with you?
9. How does living out a covenantal relationship with God look like?

“When you look at Jesus he lives fully. Nothing diminished his life. He never diminished anybody’s else’s life. People betrayed him and he responded by loving them. People denied him and he responded by loving them. People forsook him and he responded by loving them. People tormented him and he responded by loving them. People killed him and he responded by loving them. How else could he communicate to people like you and me that there is nothing we can ever do, there is nothing we can ever be that will place us outside the boundaries of the love of God. It is not that we are some worthless inadequate person that God has to come in and rescue, it is that God’s love is so abundant and so overwhelming that this love calls us to live, and to love, and to be all that we can be so that God can live in us and through us. That is a very different way to think about God.” – John Shelby Spong.