

1 CORINTHIANS 15:55-57

DEATH DON'T LIVE HERE
ANYMORE!

DR. DARRYL T. CANADY

RODMAN STREET CHURCH APRIL 5, 2026

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1 CORINTHIANS 15:55-57

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Title: Death Don't Live Here Anymore: The Victory of Resurrection

Sermon Summary: This powerful Easter message centers on the legal victory Christ won over death through His resurrection, using the courtroom as a vivid metaphor for our spiritual reality. Drawing from 1 Corinthians 15:55-57, we discover that what happened on Calvary wasn't merely a crucifixion but a cosmic legal case where sin was the charge, death was the sentence, and humanity stood guilty. The transformative truth is that when Jesus rose early Sunday morning, God didn't just raise His Son—He overturned the verdict against us. What once had legal rights over our lives has lost its case. This isn't just theological theory; it's a declaration that the habits that bound us, the fears that gripped us, and the past that labeled us no longer have authority.

The message walks us through three profound realities: death had a lease on humanity through Adam's disobedience, but Jesus canceled the contract with His blood; the grave had custody of everything it claimed, but Jesus broke that hold through resurrection power; and finally, resurrection rendered the final verdict—not guilty, victorious, alive. This transformative message calls believers to declare that death, sin, addiction, generational curses, and all forms of bondage no longer have authority in their lives because of Easter morning's victory.

When we participate in Holy Communion, we're not just remembering; we're rehearsing the victory and declaring that what was against us has

been removed. This Easter, we're reminded that we're not managing brokenness but canceling contracts, putting our enemies under our feet, and living under a new rule where death simply doesn't live here anymore.

Chapters

Chapter 1: Introduction: The Victory Over Death

We are introduced to the theme that death no longer has power over believers because of Christ's resurrection, establishing that what happened on Calvary was a legal case where Jesus overturned the verdict.

Chapter 2: Death Had a Lease, But Jesus Canceled the Contract

We discover that death operated under a legal agreement or lease over humanity since Adam's sin, but Jesus's sacrifice on the cross canceled this contract through His blood.

Chapter 3: The Grave Had Custody, But Jesus Broke the Hold

We learn that while the grave had legal custody over bodies, dreams, and generations, Jesus broke this hold when He rose from the dead early Sunday morning.

Chapter 4: Resurrection Has the Final Verdict and Jesus Won the Case

We celebrate that the resurrection rendered the final verdict of not guilty, meaning we are acquitted, justified, and set free because Jesus won the case.

Chapter 5: Living in Victory: The Battle Belongs to the Lord

We conclude by affirming that because Christ lives and won the battle, we can face tomorrow without fear, knowing the battle is not ours but the Lord's.

Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned:

1. 1 Corinthians 15:55 - "Where, O death, is your victory? Where oh death is your sting?"
2. 1 Corinthians 15:56 - "The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law"
3. 1 Corinthians 15:57 - "But thanks be to God. He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"
4. 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 - "For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also came through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive"
5. 1 Corinthians 15:13-14 - "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised"
6. 1 Corinthians 15:20 - "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead. He is the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep"
7. 1 Corinthians 15:26 - "The last enemy to be destroyed is death"
8. 1 Corinthians 15:24 - "Then the end will come when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father. He has destroyed all dominion, all authority, and all power"

Quoted or Alluded to:

9. Psalm 51:5 - "We were born in sin and shaped in iniquity"

10. John 10:10 - "The thief came to kill, steal, and destroy... I have come that you may have life, Zoe, and have that life more abundantly"
11. 2 Timothy 1:7 - "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a power of love and a sound mind"
12. Luke 24:5-6 - "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here, he is risen"
13. John 11:25 - "I am the resurrection and the life"
14. John 14:6 - "No one can come to the Father but by me"
15. John 10:17-18 - "I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No man can take it from me but I lay it down myself and I got power to lay it down and I got power to take it up again"
16. Matthew 28:18 - "All power in heaven and earth is in my hands"
17. 2 Chronicles 20:15 - "The battle is not yours but the battle belongs to the Lord"

Hymn References (Biblical Themes):

18. Revelation 5:12 - "All hail the power of Jesus' name" (hymn based on this passage)
19. 1 John 1:7 - "What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus" (hymn theme)
20. Romans 8:28 - "All things work according to his perfect will"

Supporting Verses for Main Themes:

- Genesis 3:1-19 - The Fall and entrance of sin and death
- Romans 5:12 - Sin and death entering through Adam

- Romans 6:23 - "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life"
- Colossians 2:13-15 - Christ canceling the written code and triumphing over powers
- Hebrews 2:14-15 - Christ destroying the power of death

Key Points:

- Death had a lease on humanity through Adam's sin, giving it legal rights and authority over human life
- Jesus canceled the contract of death through His sacrifice on the cross, signing the cancellation notice with His blood
- The grave had custody over those who died, but Jesus broke that hold through His resurrection
- The resurrection represents the final verdict in heaven's courtroom—declaring believers "not guilty"
- What used to control, define, or bind believers has lost its case and no longer has authority
- Holy Communion represents the price Jesus paid to cancel death's contract
- Believers must declare and decree that death, fear, shame, and bondage no longer live in them
- The battle belongs to the Lord, not to believers struggling with challenges
- Through faith in Jesus, believers are forgiven, adopted into God's family, and set free

Scripture Reference:

- 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 (primary text): "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God. He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
- 1 Corinthians 15:21-22: Death came through Adam, but resurrection came through Christ
- 1 Corinthians 15:13-14: The importance of Christ's resurrection
- 1 Corinthians 15:20: Christ as the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep
- 1 Corinthians 15:24-26: Christ destroying all dominion, authority, and power, with death as the last enemy

Stories:

- Reference to the 1970s song "Love Don't Live Here Anymore" by Rose Royce, adapted to "Death Don't Live Here Anymore"
- The Garden of Eden narrative where Adam's disobedience gave death a "lease" on humanity
- The Last Supper in the upper room with all twelve disciples, including Judas, Peter, and Thomas
- Jesus's crucifixion, burial in a borrowed tomb, and resurrection on Sunday morning
- Personal testimony of Michelle, diagnosed with colon cancer four years ago and still living
- Testimony of Dawn Murray, celebrating one year anniversary of receiving a new heart

- Reference to Dawn Staley and South Carolina Gamecocks' basketball victory over undefeated UConn
- Biblical references to figures who died despite their greatness: Methuselah (oldest), Samson (strongest), Solomon (wisest), David (most anointed)
- The Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church's "Community of Hope" initiative to transform their community and cancel cycles of poverty, violence, and hopelessness

QUOTES:

When Jesus got up, He overturned the verdict. What used to have power over you, what used to define you, what used to control you, it has lost its case.

Death had a lease on your life, but when Jesus shed His blood, He canceled the agreement that sin had on you, He canceled the claim that death had on you, He canceled the authority that hell held over you.

The stone didn't roll away to let Jesus out. It was rolled away to show us that He was already gone.

When Jesus got up, what used to hold you couldn't hold you anymore. Chains had to loose you, graves had to release you, darkness had to back up because the hold was broken.

The resurrection rendered the final verdict: not guilty, not defeated, not finished, but He's alive, He is victorious, He is risen up and the sentence has been reversed.

You are not who you used to be, you are not where you used to be, you are not bound like you used to be because what had power over you has lost the case.

When resurrection power showed up it overrode the custody. What used to hold you can't hold you anymore, what used to keep you can't keep you, what tried to bury you could not bury you.

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5-Day Easter Devotional: Death Don't Live Here Anymore

Day 1: The Canceled Contract

Reading: Romans 6:1-11

Devotional: Death once held a lease on humanity through sin, but Jesus canceled that contract with His blood. Just as a lease gives temporary rights to occupy space, sin gave death temporary authority over our lives. But when Christ died and rose again, He signed the cancellation notice in His own blood. Today, reflect on what used to have a "lease" in your life—fear, addiction, shame, or generational patterns. The good news is that what once had legal rights over you has lost its claim. You are no longer bound by old agreements. Through Christ's resurrection, the contract has been voided, the terms no longer apply, and you are free. Walk in that freedom today, declaring that death's lease has expired in your life.

Day 2: Breaking the Grave's Custody

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Devotional: The grave thought it had custody of Jesus, but early Sunday morning, it lost its hold. Custody implies legal containment—something held with no hope of release. For generations, the grave claimed bodies, dreams, and destinies. But when the stone rolled away, it wasn't to let Jesus out; it was to show us He was already gone. What has tried to hold you captive? What situation feels like it has legal custody over your future? The resurrection declares that the hold is broken. Depression cannot keep you. Your past cannot define you. Failure cannot contain you. Jesus broke the grave's authority, and in doing so, He broke every chain that tried to hold you down. Today, declare over your life: "The hold is broken!"

Day 3: Victory Through the Blood

Reading: Hebrews 9:11-15

Devotional: The communion table is where we rehearse our victory. When Jesus shared bread and wine with His disciples, He wasn't just creating a ritual—He was establishing a memorial of the price that canceled death's contract. His body was broken so yours could be made whole. His blood was shed so your sins could be washed away. As you reflect on communion today, remember that you're not just remembering history; you're declaring present-day victory. Every time you participate in this sacred meal, you announce that what was against you has been removed, what had a claim on you has been canceled. Nothing but the blood of Jesus can wash away sin, restore broken lives, and make you whole again. Let this truth sink deep into your spirit.

Day 4: Put It Under Your Feet

Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Devotional: Christ has put all enemies under His feet, and because you are in Him, you share in that authority. Whatever is trying to take you out—sickness, financial hardship, broken relationships, fear—must go under your feet. The resurrection didn't just defeat death in principle; it gave you practical authority over everything that tries to defeat you. This isn't positive thinking; it's resurrection power. When the enemy reminds you of your diagnosis, put it under your feet. When circumstances scream impossibility, put them under your feet. When old habits knock at your door, put them under your feet. You are not living beneath your problems; you are living above them. Christ has already won the victory, and you are seated with Him in heavenly places. Walk in that authority today.

Day 5: The Final Verdict

Reading: Romans 8:31-39

Devotional: The resurrection rendered the final verdict: Not guilty. Not defeated. Not finished. Alive and victorious. Heaven's courtroom has spoken, and the decision is final and binding. The enemy can accuse you, but he cannot convict you. He can remind you of your past, but he cannot reverse the verdict. You have been acquitted, justified, and set free. No matter what charges the enemy tries to bring against you, the case has been closed. The Judge has ruled in your favor because Jesus won the case. Today, when condemnation whispers, rehearse the verdict. When shame tries to reopen old cases, declare that the charges have been dropped. You are living under a new ruling—the ruling of grace, mercy, and resurrection power. Death don't live here anymore. There's just a

vacancy where death used to dwell, because Jesus is alive and reigning in your life.

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Small Group Guide: "Death Don't Live Here Anymore"

Based on Easter Sunday Sermon - 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

Opening Prayer

Begin with prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to receive His word and apply it to daily life.

Icebreaker Question

Share a time when you experienced a "cancellation" in your life - when something that seemed permanent or controlling suddenly lost its power over you.

Key Scripture

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 *"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Main Points Summary

1. Death Had a Lease, But Jesus Canceled the Contract

- Sin gave death legal rights over humanity through Adam's disobedience
- Jesus' death and resurrection canceled the agreement death had on us
- Holy Communion represents the price that canceled the contract

2. The Grave Had Custody, But Jesus Broke the Hold

- The grave claimed bodies, dreams, and generations
- The stone rolled away showed Jesus was already gone
- What used to hold us can't hold us anymore

3. Resurrection Has the Final Verdict - Jesus Won the Case

- The verdict is final: Not guilty, not defeated, not finished
 - We live under a new ruling
 - The case has been closed and charges dropped
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. The pastor described Calvary as a "courtroom" where "sin was the charge and death was the sentence." How does viewing the crucifixion as a legal case change your understanding of what Jesus accomplished?
2. What does it mean that death had a "lease" on humanity rather than ownership? How does this distinction matter?
3. The sermon emphasized that the stone rolled away "to show us Jesus was already gone" rather than to let Him out. Why is this detail significant?

Personal Reflection

4. What areas of your life still feel like they have a "lease" - patterns, fears, or habits that seem to have permission to stay? How does this message speak to those areas?
5. The pastor said, "You are not who you used to be, you are not where you used to be, you are not bound like you used to be." What is one specific way you've experienced this freedom in your life?
6. When have you felt like something was "in custody" - held captive with no appeal? How does the resurrection give you hope in that situation?

Application

7. The sermon challenged us to "put things under our feet" - sickness, bad relationships, bills, trials. What specific thing do you need to declare is "under your feet" today?

8. How can you practically live out the truth that "death don't live here anymore" in your daily life this week?
 9. The pastor mentioned building a "community of hope" where cycles are canceled and systems are disrupted. What would it look like for your small group or community to be a place where death doesn't live anymore?
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Key Takeaways

- ✓ The Contract is Canceled: Sin and death no longer have legal authority over believers in Christ
 - ✓ The Hold is Broken: What used to control, define, or bind us has lost its power through the resurrection
 - ✓ The Verdict is Final: Jesus won the case - we are acquitted, justified, and set free
 - ✓ Victory is Personal: The resurrection isn't just historical; it has present-day power over our lives
 - ✓ The Battle Belongs to the Lord: We don't fight alone - God is using us and fighting for us
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one area where you need to declare "death don't live here anymore" and take these steps:

1. Identify It: Name the specific thing that's been acting like it has a lease in your life (fear, addiction, negative pattern, broken relationship, financial bondage, etc.)
2. Declare It: Speak out loud daily: "Death don't live here anymore in [specific area]"
3. Put It Under Your Feet: Take one concrete action that demonstrates this thing no longer has power over you
4. Share Your Victory: Tell at least one person about the freedom you're claiming

Group Action Steps

- **Accountability Partners:** Pair up to check in during the week about your "death don't live here anymore" declarations
- **Prayer Warriors:** Exchange prayer requests about areas where you need the "hold to be broken"
- **Testimony Time:** Plan to share victories at your next meeting about where you've seen resurrection power at work

Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 15:57 *"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Closing Reflection

The pastor reminded us: *"When you woke up this morning, God was pulling for you. Satan was pulling against you, but you are the one that must decide who you are going to follow."*

Final Question: What daily choice will you make this week to follow the God of resurrection rather than the voice of death?

Closing Prayer

Pray together:

- Thanking God for the victory of the resurrection
 - Declaring freedom over specific areas where group members need breakthrough
 - Asking for strength to live as people in whom "death don't live anymore"
 - Committing to be a community of hope where cycles are broken and lives are restored
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For Next Week

Come prepared to share:

1. One way you experienced resurrection power this week
 2. A testimony of something that lost its "lease" in your life
 3. How you're living differently because of Easter's truth
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Leader's Note: Create space for authentic sharing. Some group members may be struggling with areas where death still seems to "have a lease." Remind them that Jesus' victory is already won - we're learning to walk in what's already been accomplished. Be sensitive to those dealing with

actual grief or loss, emphasizing that while physical death is real, it no longer has the final word for believers.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The pastor declares that death had a lease on humanity through sin, but Jesus canceled the contract through His resurrection. What areas of your life still feel like death has a lease, and how can you actively claim the cancellation Jesus purchased?
2. The sermon emphasizes that the grave had custody but could not hold Jesus. What dreams, relationships, or aspects of your identity have felt buried, and how does the resurrection power apply to those areas today?
3. The pastor states that we are all X something, referring to our past identities and sins. How does understanding that God does not hold your past against you change the way you view yourself and your future?
4. First Corinthians 15:55 asks where death's sting and victory are. In what ways have you experienced the sting of death, whether physical, spiritual, or emotional, and how does Christ's victory address that pain?
5. The message describes Easter not just as a crucifixion but as a courtroom case where the verdict was overturned. How does viewing your salvation as a legal acquittal rather than just forgiveness impact your understanding of grace?
6. The pastor mentions that generational cycles and brokenness can repeat because death had legal rights through sin. What generational patterns in your family need the resurrection power to break their hold?
7. When Jesus shared communion, He signed the cancellation notice with His blood. How does regularly participating in

communion help you rehearse and remember the victory you have in Christ?

8. The sermon emphasizes putting enemies under your feet, citing sickness, bad relationships, and trials. What specific thing do you need to declare is under your feet today, and what prevents you from doing so?
9. The pastor states that the stone was rolled away not to let Jesus out but to show us He was already gone. How does this detail about the resurrection change your perspective on God's power and timing in your circumstances?
10. The Community of Hope is presented as a declaration that poverty, violence, and hopelessness do not have a lease. How can your faith community actively cancel the contracts that brokenness has tried to establish in your neighborhood or city?

