

CORNERSTONE

# DISCIPLESHIP

GROUPS

**RAISED TO NEW LIFE, session 2**  
**Pastor Ann Burns**  
**Message from Sunday, May 17, 2026**

## Welcome

**Icebreaker Question:** What's one thing you believed about yourself before becoming a Christian that completely changed after you gave your life to Jesus?

### Key Scripture References

- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Romans 5:12-21
- Romans 6:4-11
- 1 John 4:17
- John 17:20-21
- Ephesians 1:15-23; 2:1-6

## Main Teaching Points

### 1. The Great Exchange

Jesus became like us so we could become like Him. He became sin so we could become the righteousness of God.

### 2. Dead, Buried, and Raised

- Death and burial are **past tense** (done, finished)
- Resurrection is **present tense** (ongoing reality)
- We share in Christ's resurrection power NOW

### 3. Our True Identity

"As He is, so are we in this world" (1 John 4:17) - We have the same standing as Jesus in this present world.

### 4. The Resurrection Power Within

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us - immeasurable, unlimited, surpassing greatness.

## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Message (15 minutes)

1. **The Great Exchange:** Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 together. What does it mean that Jesus "became sin" for us? How does this differ from just "taking our sin"?  
2.
3. **Past Tense vs. Present Tense:** Pastor Ann emphasized that death and burial are past tense, but resurrection is present tense. Why is this distinction important for how we live today?  
4.

**Identity Statement:** Pastor Ann stated "as He is, so are we in this world" (1 John 4:17). What was your initial reaction to hearing this? Does it seem too good to be true? Why or why not?

### Going Deeper (20 minutes)

1. **Union with Christ:** Read John 17:20-21. Jesus prayed that we would be "one" with Him and the Father. What does this union look like practically in daily life?
- 2.
3. **Breaking Free from Religion:** Pastor Ann distinguished between religion (do-it-yourself) and Christianity (He did it all). In what areas of your spiritual life do you still struggle with "do-it-yourself" thinking?
- 4.
5. **The Power Within:** According to Ephesians 1:19-20, the same power that raised Christ from the dead is "in and for us who believe." Why do you think Paul prayed that believers would *understand* this power rather than asking God to give them more power?
- 6.
7. **Familiarity Breeds Contempt:** In discussing communion, Pastor Ann warned against letting familiarity breed contempt. Where in your spiritual life have you become too familiar with something precious? (Scripture, worship, prayer, etc.)
- 8.

### Personal Reflection (15 minutes)

1. **Your Relationship with Sin:** Romans 6:11 says to "consider yourselves dead to sin and your relation to it broken." How does knowing that sin has no power over you (you're not its slave) change how you approach temptation?
- 2.
3. **Confidence Before God:** Read 1 John 4:17 again. The passage says we can have "confidence" and "boldness" to face the day of judgment. What typically makes people afraid to face God? How does being "one with Christ" remove that fear?
- 4.
5. **Living from the Resurrection:** If you truly believed you've already been raised from the dead with Christ and are seated with Him in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:5-6), what would change about:
  - 6.
  - How you see yourself?
  - How you face challenges?
  - How you interact with others?

## Key Takeaways

### Key Takeaways

- ✓ **Jesus identified with us so we could identify with Him** - the great exchange at the cross
- ✓ **We are not trying to become righteous** - we have been made the righteousness of God in Christ
- ✓ **Sin has no power over us** - our relationship with it is broken; we are dead to sin and alive to God
- ✓ **Resurrection power lives in us NOW** - not just for heaven, but for this present world
- ✓ **Our standing is identical to Christ's** - as He is, so are we in this world
- ✓ **We are seated with Christ** - far above all principality, power, and dominion

## Practical Application

### This Week's Challenge:

**Daily Declaration:** Each morning this week, stand before a mirror and declare out loud:

- "I am dead to sin and alive to God"
- "I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus"
- "As He is, so am I in this world"
- "The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in me"

**Reflection Journal:** Keep a simple journal noting:

- Situations where you were tempted to operate from your old identity
- Moments when you remembered your true identity in Christ
- Changes in how you felt, thought, or acted as a result

**Group Accountability:** Share one specific area where you need to live more from your resurrection identity (relationships, work, health, finances, etc.) and ask the group to pray for you.

## Communion Reflection

### Communion Reflection

Read 1 Corinthians 11:26-32 (The Message version from the sermon).

### Questions for Meditation:

- Am I taking communion in "holy awe" or has it become routine?
- Do I truly appreciate the broken body of Jesus and what it accomplished?
- Am I properly discerning (understanding, valuing) the Lord's body?

**Encourage group members:** If possible, take communion together as a group, or commit to taking it at home this week with renewed appreciation and understanding.

## Prayer Focus

### Prayer Focus (10 minutes)

Pray through Ephesians 1:17-19 for each other:

- For a spirit of wisdom and revelation
- For eyes of the heart to be flooded with light
- To understand the hope of His calling
- To comprehend the immeasurable greatness of His power in and for us

### Specific Prayer Requests:

- Anyone struggling with condemnation or feeling distant from God
- Anyone needing healing (remember: His body was broken for our wholeness)
- Anyone preparing for water baptism
- Anyone who needs to receive Jesus as Lord for the first time

## Additional Resources

### For Further Study:

- Read all of Romans 5 (especially in the Amplified version)
- Study Romans 6 in its entirety
- Read Ephesians 1-2 daily this week
- Look up every reference to being "in Christ" in the New Testament

**Recommended Action:** If you've never been baptized in water, seriously consider it. Talk to a pastor or group leader about taking this important step of identifying with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

## News & Events

Scan QR code for Upcoming Events, News, Giving and more! <https://linktr.ee/cornerstonejc>

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 31 - Water Baptism; registration is open
- June 6 - Men's Breakfast
- Save the Date! July 19 - Summer Fun Night at Kingsport Aquatic Center

