

# Resurrection Doctrines in Romans

A Reformed & Reformed Baptist Theological Summary · Romans 1-8

## CHRISTOLOGY

### Resurrection Declares Christ as Son of God

Romans 1:3-4

Declared Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection.

#### DEFINITION

**The resurrection vindicates and installs Jesus as the Son of God in power.**

#### EXPLANATION

The Spirit's declarative energy revealed what was veiled in the flesh: the eternal Son, glorified as God and man, appointed messianic Lord (Col. 1:18). Calvin: 'The power peculiar to God shone forth, proving him to be God.' Gaffin: Christ entered a new phase of Sonship — resurrection is not evidential of divinity but transforming of his humanity. Luther: before resurrection his Sonship was hidden in the flesh; now publicly revealed in power.

Sources: Calvin, Hodge, Vos, Gaffin, Schreiner, Lloyd-Jones

## JUSTIFICATION

### Resurrection Declares Sinners Righteous

Romans 4:24-25; 10:9-10

Raised for our justification. Believe in your heart that God raised him — you will be saved.

#### DEFINITION

**Christ's resurrection is God's verdict that the atoning work is complete and accepted.**

#### EXPLANATION

Murray: Christ was raised for the purpose of our justification — his resurrection is his justification before God, and through union with him by faith, his vindication becomes ours. Edwards: 'The resurrection is God declaring his satisfaction; he thereby declared it was enough.' Without resurrection, faith is futile and we remain in our sins (1 Cor. 15:17). Saving faith confesses the risen Lord (Rom. 10:9-10).

Sources: Murray, Calvin, Schreiner, Gaffin, Lloyd-Jones

## NEWNESS OF LIFE

### Resurrection Empowers Present Obedience

Romans 6:4

Just as Christ was raised by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

#### DEFINITION

**Union with the risen Christ breaks sin's dominion and empowers holy conduct now.**

#### EXPLANATION

Baptism seals co-crucifixion and co-resurrection with Christ, shattering sin's reign. Murray: 'The decisive entrance upon newness of life is required by the decisiveness of Christ's own resurrection.' Gaffin: 'There is no more basic NT perspective on sanctification than Romans 6 — a continual living to God of those alive from the dead.' This is inaugurated new-creation existence, eschatology already begun in history.

Sources: Murray, Gaffin, Schreiner, Lloyd-Jones, Derek Thomas

## SANCTIFICATION

### Resurrection Defines Our New Identity

Romans 6:1-14

Consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (v. 11)

#### DEFINITION

**The believer's definitive break with sin and ongoing transformation flows from co-resurrection.**

#### EXPLANATION

Romans 6 grounds sanctification in union with the resurrected Christ, not moral effort. Murray's 'definitive sanctification': an irreversible breach with sin's reign (vv. 2-11) distinguishable from progressive sanctification. Gaffin: 'Christian existence is a manifestation of the resurrection life and power of Christ, the life-giving Spirit.' Believers begin at the top — already perfect in Christ, being progressively conformed.

Sources: Murray, Gaffin, Schreiner, Lloyd-Jones

## HOPE OF GLORY

### Resurrection Guarantees Final Glorification

Romans 8:11, 18-23, 29-30

He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit.

#### DEFINITION

**The indwelling Spirit as first-fruits of resurrection guarantees future bodily glorification.**

#### EXPLANATION

Gaffin: Christ's resurrection is 'the actual beginning of the general epochal event' — two episodes of one eschatological reality. The Spirit (8:9-11) is the down-payment. Vos: Christ's resurrection inaugurates the new creation; believers are first-fruits. Schreiner: present sufferings incomparable to glory to be revealed. The golden chain (8:29-30) — predestined, called, justified, glorified — anchored in Christ as Firstborn.

Sources: Murray, Gaffin, Vos, Schreiner, Lloyd-Jones, Derek Thomas

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Sources: John Murray, Epistle to the Romans · Richard Gaffin, Resurrection and Redemption · Thomas Schreiner, Romans (BECNT) · Geerhardus Vos, Pauline Eschatology · Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Romans series (MLJ Trust) · Calvin, Institutes II.xvi · Reformed Faith & Practice (RTS): journal.rts.edu · Ligonier: learn.ligonier.org · Perplexity Computer · Reformed Baptist Theological Reference  
1. journal.rts.edu — Vos on Romans 1:3-4 2. TGC — Jesus' Resurrection, Our Justification 3. Modern Reformation — Gaffin, Resurrection & Redemption 4. Ligonier — Raised for Our Justification 5. Murray — Definitive Sanctification