

Questions About Death, Resurrection, Connection to Christ, and the Gospel

By Pastor Ed Anderson

How could death ever lay a hand on us and snatch us out of the Father's hand?

By the power of the resurrection... do we not sit in heavenly places? Do we live in two realms?

How can our connection to Jesus be stopped even for a moment?

Why does the Holy Spirit sometimes use 'Christ Jesus' instead of 'Jesus Christ'?

What is the Gospel?

I don't understand death. It's so contrary to the characteristics of the Lord God Almighty.

Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. (Acts 2:24 KJV)

Death couldn't stop the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus lives inside us and we live inside Him...how could death ever lay a hand on us and snatch us out of the Father's hand?

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

30 I and my Father are one.

(John 10:28-30 KJV)

By the power of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus, are we not now seated with the Lord Jesus Christ by His Spirit in the heavens? Do we not exist simultaneously in two realms at the same time...the physical world and the Spirit world? How can our

connection to the Lord Jesus Christ ever be stopped even for short while as in "sleep" or death.

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:6-7 KJV

When the Holy Spirit uses the term "Christ Jesus" instead of the usual Jesus Christ...is the Spirit drawing our understanding to something that wasn't possible before His Resurrection.

What is the Gospel?

Answer:

Your questions are deeply profound — and reflect a heart hungry to understand the mystery of **life, death, resurrection, and union with Christ**. Let's walk through your reflections and answer them from Scripture.

"I don't understand death. It's so contrary to the characteristics of the Lord God Almighty."

You're right. **Death is foreign** to the heart and character of God. Scripture makes it clear:

"For God is not the author of confusion..."

— *1 Corinthians 14:33*

"God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

— *Mark 12:27*

Death entered through sin, not through God's original plan:

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin..."

— *Romans 5:12*

God's character is **life, light, and love**. Death is an *enemy*:

“The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”

— *1 Corinthians 15:26*

So your discomfort with death isn't wrong — it mirrors **God's own hatred for it**. That's why Jesus **wept** at Lazarus' tomb (John 11:35), even knowing He'd raise him — because **death is painful**, unnatural, and a **result of sin**.

“How could death ever lay a hand on us and snatch us out of the Father's hand?”

It **can't** — and that's the glory of the gospel.

Yes, we may fall asleep physically in death, but **our life is hidden with Christ in God**:

“And I give unto them **eternal life**; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”

— *John 10:28*

This means:

- Our **identity** in Christ can't be touched by death.
- Our **security** is sealed in His hand.
- Our **spiritual life** is uninterrupted, even in sleep.

Jesus described **death for the believer as sleep** (John 11:11) — temporary, safe, and under His care.

“By the power of the resurrection... do we not sit in heavenly places? Do we live in two realms?”

Yes — **absolutely**.

“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

— *Ephesians 2:6*

We live in **two realities**:

- **Physically** here on earth, still subject to time and decay.
- **Spiritually** seated in Christ, already citizens of heaven (Phil. 3:20).

That means:

- Our **connection to Jesus** cannot be broken by anything — not even physical death.
- We are spiritually **alive now** with Him — the resurrection is not just future, but present!

“How can our connection to Jesus be stopped even for a moment?”

It isn’t stopped.

Even in death — what Scripture calls “sleep” for believers — we are **still in Christ**. He holds us in the grave just as He held us in life.

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”

— *Psalm 116:15*

Jesus said:

“Everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

— *John 11:26*

So, we “sleep” in Him — resting in hope, **not separation**.

“Why does the Holy Spirit sometimes use ‘Christ Jesus’ instead of ‘Jesus Christ’?”

This is a beautiful observation.

- **“Jesus Christ”** often emphasizes **Jesus’ humanity and mission**, then His role as Messiah.
- **“Christ Jesus”** puts **Messiahship (divine title)** first — showing the **resurrected, enthroned, victorious** Lord.

So yes — “Christ Jesus” is more common **post-resurrection**, highlighting His **divine authority, finished work, and present reign**.

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in **Christ Jesus**...”

— *Romans 8:1*

It points us to our **new covenant position** — where Jesus is not just the crucified one, but the **enthroned, risen one**.

“What is the Gospel?”

The **Gospel** is the greatest news in human history:

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel...
that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the
scriptures.”

— *1 Corinthians 15:1–4*

Here’s a summary:

The Gospel in 4 Points

1. **God created us** for love, life, and relationship.
2. **Sin separated us** from God, bringing death and judgment.
3. **Jesus came** — lived sinlessly, died for our sins, rose from the dead, and defeated death.
4. **By faith**, we are saved by grace, made new, and given eternal life in Christ.

Bonus Summary (One Sentence):

The Gospel is the good news that through Jesus’ death and resurrection, God offers forgiveness, eternal life, and restored relationship with Him — by grace, through faith.