

THE TRUEST THING ABOUT YOU ²

August 16, 2015 John 11:1-44 by Bob Branch
Staying Free, Part 2

BIG IDEA: Part of the truest thing about you is that you are no longer defined by what you've been through, but as one incredibly loved and raised to new life... A risen life!

- This story identifies Jesus as the Son of God-Messiah, come from heaven, to bring heaven to earth. To conquer sin, death, and all that enslaves people.

1. You are “the one Jesus loves.”

So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.” ... Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus... When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled... Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” **John 11:3, 5, 33, 35-36**

“Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion.” — **Brennan Manning**

“Follow God’s example, as dearly loved children”
Ephesians 5:1 (Col. 3:12; 1 Th. 1:4; Jude 1)

2. You now have a Risen Life... you were raised with Christ! To live a Lazarus life.

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.” **Ephesians 2:4-7** (see 1:20)

- You are now in a different **position** with God. Alienated... Now reigning.
- You are now invited to participate in the **community** of the Trinity!
- You are no longer a **victim** at the mercy of life!
- You have a **new identity**... something greater defines you...
- You have **new authority** in your life...
- You have a **whole new focus** and mindset in daily life. An eternal one. “*What kinds of things matter to God, and matter for eternity?*”

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.” **Colossians 3:1-3** (see 2:12)

3. You’re no longer defined by your pain, loss or death.

Our identity is not in our joy, and our identity is not in our suffering. Our identity is in Christ, whether we have joy or are suffering. — **Mark Driscoll**

“Take off the grave clothes and let him go.” **John 11:44**

“...casting all your cares on him, because he cares for you.” **1 Peter 5:7** LEB