

2 Corinthians 5:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Analysis

And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves—Kai hyper pantōn apethanen hina hoi zōntes mēketi heautois zōsin (καὶ ὑπὲρ πάντων ἀπέθανεν ἵνα οἱ ζῶντες μηκέτι ἐαυτοῖς ζῶσιν). Christ's death has purpose (hina, ἵνα, "in order that")—ending self-centered existence. Mēketi (μηκέτι, "no longer") marks decisive break. Heautois (ἐαυτοῖς, dative reflexive, "for themselves") describes autonomous self-direction—living as if you were your own.

But unto him which died for them, and rose again—Alla tō hyper autōn apothanonti kai egerthenti (ἀλλὰ τῷ ὑπὲρ αὐτῶν ἀποθανόντι καὶ ἐγερθέντι). Life's new orientation: the One who died and rose for us. Egerthenti (ἐγερθέντι, aorist passive participle of ἐγείρω, "raised") emphasizes God's action—resurrection validates substitutionary death. Paul links death and resurrection inseparably—Christ's death atones; His resurrection inaugurates new life. Believers no longer belong to themselves but to Christ (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Self-ownership is abolished; Christ's ownership is total. This is Christian ethics' foundation: radical Christ-centeredness replacing autonomous self-direction.

Historical Context

Ancient culture emphasized honor, family, and social duty—but ultimate allegiance to divine Lord was limited. Christianity's exclusive Christ-devotion appeared

antisocial (Acts 17:6-7). Paul insists: Christ's death purchases total ownership. Believers are love-slaves (Romans 1:1), finding freedom in utter devotion to their Redeemer.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Are you still living primarily for yourself—your comfort, ambitions, preferences—or genuinely for Christ?
2. What specific areas of life do you withhold from Christ's ownership, maintaining zones of self-direction?
3. How would your daily schedule and spending patterns change if you truly lived "unto Him" rather than unto yourself?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ὑπὲρ	πάντων	ἀποθανόντι	ἵνα	οἱ	ζῶσιν	μηκέτι
And	for	all	that he died	that	G3588	live	not henceforth
G2532	G5228	G3956	G599	G2443		G2198	G3371
ἐξαντοῖς	ζῶσιν	ἀλλὰ	τῷ	ὑπὲρ	αὐτῶν	ἀποθανόντι	καὶ
unto themselves	live	but	G3588	for	them	that he died	And
G1438	G2198	G235		G5228	G846	G599	G2532
ἐγερθέντι							
rose again							
G1453							

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 3:1 (Parallel theme): If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:17 (Parallel theme): And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

1 John 4:9 (Parallel theme): In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Titus 2:14 (Parallel theme): Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Galatians 5:25 (Parallel theme): If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Romans 12:1 (Parallel theme): I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

1 Thessalonians 5:10 (Parallel theme): Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

1 Peter 4:6 (Parallel theme): For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

Revelation 1:18 (Parallel theme): I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

1 Corinthians 10:33 (Parallel theme): Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.