

Family TableTalk

Conversation 77

LIVE

read

Ezekiel 37:3-14

think

For several years I took a class of Youth Ministry majors to a local high school sociology class. When my students asked those students what their purpose in life was, most of them replied “to live” or “to have fun.” What does it mean to live?

The word “Live” shows up 55 times in Ezekiel and is signified by 3 different Hebrew words. One represents how God lives (chay), another represents how most people live (yashab), and another describes the idea of dry bones coming to life (chayah). One word for live describes life apart from knowing God (yahab) as “dry bones”. The literal meaning of that word describes those who live this way as “lurking about, occupying space” (see *Walking Dead, 13 Reasons Why, Everything Sucks*). The other describes living as one who comes to life, has been revived, and is saved. Those who live by God’s desires actually end up having more fun than those aiming to live for fun. Having purpose gives meaning to every day, every friendship, every activity, every loss or pain, every conversation.

Jesus tells us in John 3:17 and Peter echoes Jesus’ words in 1 Peter 1:3 that followers of Christ are born again in Christ. In recent days, some Christians seem not to use this phrase to describe themselves. By using this phrase though we can immediately help others to distinguish the difference between those who live (Christians) and those who simply take up space (those who don’t follow Christ).

apply

- Are you born again? Do you live?
- Do you ever feel like you’re only taking up space?
- What could make the difference for you to rise up your dry bones or those of your friends and family?

pray

Lord, thank you for making us to live. Thank you for showing us how to live. Thank you for helping us help others to learn how to live. Please help us share your love with others out of our joy. We trust you for the meaning in our life Lord. Amen.

by Ron Belsterling

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