

Finding Meaning: Wisdom from Ecclesiastes  
The Problem with Death  
Ecclesiastes 9:1-10

We live in a culture of death. Various state governments are passing legislation that promote abortion on demand and have legalized physician assisted suicide. We have a generation obsessed with death and violence reflected in everything from music to movies to video games. It seems that the more we search for meaning in life, the more we are confronted with the reality of death.

1. For the \_\_\_\_\_, death makes life \_\_\_\_\_.
2. For the \_\_\_\_\_, death makes life \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Jesus has \_\_\_\_\_ death.
4. Jesus offers \_\_\_\_\_ life.

Those who are in Christ will live forever in a new creation, bodily raised from the dead. The world is heading to a paradise where we will eat, drink, love, and work to the glory of God and our own joy. We get to practice for the kingdom right now by enjoying life to the fullest in light of Christ's resurrection and triumph over death. As Russ Moore has said, "Let us eat, drink and be merry for yesterday we were dead, but today we are alive!"

Reflection

When was the first time you had to face the reality of death? How did that experience make you feel? What are some ways people try to escape death? Have you ever been tempted to use the circumstances of your life to gauge how God feels about you? Have you ever looked at someone else's circumstances to gauge how God felt about them? (By the way, that is the textbook definition of the "judging others" that Jesus told us to avoid.) How can contemplating your own mortality cause you to enjoy life more? How does Jesus rescue us from the curse of death? What does the "abundant life" look like according to Ecclesiastes 9?