

“The Resurrected Body”

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

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Teaching Aim: To explore the doctrine of the resurrection and to examine some of the differences between the natural body and the resurrected body. To reflect on the role Jesus plays in our salvation and to see the radical transformation that must take place to prepare our current bodies for heaven. To realize the victory is already ours in our battle over sin and death when we are *“in Christ”!*

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)

Part I: The glory of the resurrected body compared to the glory of God’s creation (1 Cor. 15:35-41)

1. How will the dead be raised (**vs. 35**)? (See **John 6:39-44, 54; 1 Thess. 4:16-18**) What kind of bodies will we have when we, as Christians, are resurrected from the dead? (See **Phil. 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2-3**) Why do you think Jesus called the Corinthians *“foolish”* (**vs. 36**)? (See **vv. 16-17**)

2. What do we use seeds for today (**vs. 37**)? What happens to a seed once it is buried in the ground and begins to germinate? Which is more beautiful, the seed or the flower that comes from it? How does this illustration relate to the future resurrection body of the born-again Christian?

3. According to **verse 38**, who determines what kind of body we have? Paul illustrates four different kinds of flesh in **verse 39**; what, if anything, can we learn about *“evolution”* from this verse? Is Paul illustrating that we all originated from a cosmic belch millions of years ago, or is he speaking in support of *“intelligent design”* by God? Can you think of any kinds of life God created to survive in unique environments that other creatures cannot?

4. What is Paul speaking of when he refers to *“celestial bodies”* (**vs. 40**)? What does he mean when he says, *“terrestrial bodies”*? (See Dictionary) Can you give an example of each?

5. In what way does the glory of “*the sun*” differ from the glory of “*the moon*” (vs. 41)? How does this illustration relate to the difference between the Christian’s earthly body and his or her future resurrection body? How can the varying degrees of brightness found in “*the stars*” be an illustration of future rewards following our resurrection to eternal life? (See **Dan. 12:1-3; Phil. 2:12-16**)

Part II: God’s divine order in nature: the physical first then the spiritual (1 Cor. 15:42-49)

1. What did Paul mean when he said, “*The body is sown in corruption*” (vs. 42)? Have you ever seen a dead body? What changes did you see in the person from when they were last seen living? What happens to the body once a person dies? (See **2 Cor. 5:8**) What is the only way people will be raised from the dead in “*incorruption*” on the great Resurrection Day? (See **John 3:16, 36; Acts 4:12**)

2. What did Paul mean when he said, “*it [the body] is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power*” (vs. 43)? Have you ever noticed pride has a way of disappearing when it comes to end of life care? Why? What are some ways that the resurrected body will be different from our earthly body? According to the Bible, by whose power will we be raised from the dead? (See **John 5:21-29; 10:11-18, 27-29**)

3. What did Paul mean when he said the body “*is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body*” (vs. 44)? Note: The Greeks believed in the philosophy of “*dualism*,” the belief that everything physical is intrinsically evil while everything spiritual is good. The thought of a resurrected body was repulsive to the Greeks; they wanted to get rid of their physical bodies. What did Paul clarify to the Greek Corinthians in **verse 44**? (See **Matt. 28:5-6; 1 John 3:2-3**) Does **verse 44** indicate the resurrected body will be an inanimate object or a body directed by the Holy Spirit?

4. What kind of “*nature*” can we thank “*the first Adam*” for (vs. 45)? The Bible speaks of a Second or Last Adam. Who is referred to by this title? (See **Rom. 5:19-21**) What kind of life does “*the last Adam*” give to born-again believers (vs. 45)? What are some ways the resurrected body of Jesus was different from His physical body while on earth? (See **Luke 24:13-16, 30-43; John 20:19-29**)

5. In **verse 46**, God lays out a divine order, what is it? Can you think of any biblical families in which this principle plays out? (See **John 3:3-5; Rom. 9:10-13**) Describe some of the differences between “*the first man*” and “*the Second Man.*” How do these differences affect every human being today (**vs. 47**)? (See **Gen. 2:7; 3:1-7; Isa. 7:14; 9:6; 2 Cor. 5:21**)

6. What are some ways that we bear the image of the first Adam in our physical bodies today (**vs. 48**)? How do we bear the image of the Second Adam – Jesus Christ? How does Paul’s test in **2 Cor. 13:5** relate to **verses 48 & 49**? According to this test, whose image do you reflect most in your life? On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your Christian walk? What are some practical steps you can take to improve it?

Part III: The rapture of the church and our victory in Christ (1 Cor. 15:50-58)

1. Why can’t “*flesh and blood*” enter the kingdom of God (**vs. 50**)? (See **Exod. 33:20**) What must happen to a person’s body before he or she can enter into the eternal state (**vs. 51**)?

2. What is the meaning of the word, “*mystery*” (**vs. 51**)? (See Dictionary) The mystery of **verse 51** was something that hadn’t been communicated to the saints in the Old Testament. What does Paul mean when he said, “*We shall not all sleep*”? (See **John 11:11-14; 1 Cor. 11:27-31**) What is the word “*sleep*” used as a euphemism for in the New Testament? What kind of “*change*” will take place to the physical body of believers at the sounding of the last trumpet (**51 & 52**)?

3. When do you think the last trumpet will sound and what is the significance of the blast (**vs. 52**)? (See **Exod. 19:16; Matt. 24:31; 1 Thess. 4:16-18; Rev. 11:15**) What promise is given in **verses 51 & 52** to every born-again Christian who is alive at the time of the rapture? How quickly will this radical transformation take place? What is the most rapidly moving visible part of the human body?

4. What radical transformation takes place in **verse 53**? How will this transformation change the relationship between our human bodies and the perpetual enemy of death (**vs. 54**)? Does the thought of your impending death scare you? Why or why not? Should death scare you as a born-again Christian (**54-57**)?
5. According to **verse 54**, "*death is swallowed up in victory.*" When will this victory ultimately take place? (See **Isa. 25:8-9**) Bees have a vicious sting but die shortly after delivering the stinger into a victim. Why is Paul's analogy of a bee's sting such a good analogy of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and His victory over sin, death and Satan? (**vv. 55**)? (See **Gen. 3:15 NIV**)
6. What is the sting of death according to **verses 56**? What does God use to reveal our sin? (See **Rom. 3:19-20**) Who does Paul thank for the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (**vs. 57**)? How should this victory in Christ affect our everyday living today (**vs. 58**)?

MINER'S CORNER – *Manna to live by!*

- God has uniquely designed each of His creatures for the specific environment in which they live!
- Dead Christians will rise at the coming of Christ with a new glorified body; the dead in Christ will rise first! (See **1 Thess. 4:16**)
- Christians alive at the time of the rapture will be transformed and receive glorified bodies without dying!
- A double resurrection will occur at the return of Christ when the bodies of both believers and unbelievers are raised physically from the dead to receive their due; either eternal rewards for faith and obedience or justice for disobedience!
- Victory over sin, death and the devil come by grace through faith in Jesus Christ!
- No matter how difficult life might be, through faith in Christ, we are to be steadfast and immovable knowing that our labor in the Lord is not in vain!