

## 1 Cor. 15:35-58—Our Resurrection Bodies

- **Intro:**
  - Something in us ALL wants to live forever—we spend a ton of time and money on our bodies and health trying to get them to last longer.
    - Why we love superheroes—I mean you get super bummed if Superman gets the flu all the time. It's why we can't conceive of Jason Bourne or Jack Bauer ever losing!
  - We like to banish the thought of death from our minds and live like we are invincible.
    - Paul encourages not to go around death or cheat it but go through it with the resurrection.
    - FACE the reality of death with the greater reality of life AFTER death.
  - Resurrection of Jesus meets the ultimate longings of the human soul
- **Indictment: it does not seem that the resurrection and the concept of life after death does not have anywhere near the prominence in our lives/souls than it did the NT church.**
  - **Persecution and Sickness—Because the early church truly believed they could die at any moment! They were constantly reminded of their mortality.**
    - Coping Mechanism—trying to put the thoughts of death and the reminder of it behind us
    - Key to wasting our life—walk around assuming we will have tomorrow.
  - **The promise of Jesus that he would return was FRESH in their minds! They all believed that Jesus would return in their lifetime!**
    - A real awareness of Christ's return is about as absent in most of our thoughts as is the idea of death.
    - We may be the first generation of Christians to not really believe Christ will return in our lifetime!
- **2 Big Questions (verse 35):**
  - **What kind of Body will We Have (v.36-49)?**
    - **Our resurrected bodies are actually OUR bodies (v.43-44)**
      - Repeated "IT" = your body will be the one you have for eternity
      - Our natural body will be CLOTHED with a spiritual body—we will not be weird spirits floating around.
        - 1 Cor. 6:19-20—your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
          - Our BODIES are created and purposed by God for his glory! He won't back down from that in eternity!
          - God thought our physical bodies are so important that he keeps them in eternity—this ought to radically shape how we think about our bodies—how we eat, exercise, use our bodies sexually, etc.
      - **Our resurrected bodies are OUR bodies, gloriously transformed (v.36-37; 42-44)**
        - **Our current body = a seed**
        - **Our resurrection body = the fully bloomed plant**
          - You plant a little unassuming seed and get an amazing crop
          - We have a humble, broken body, go into the ground and then one day we rise with a body more wonderful and glorious than we could ever imagine.
            - Keller—if you can get a glimpse into what you are going to be, you would be tempted to bow down and worship it.
            - We cannot even conceive of what that life and that body will be like!?
        - Underneath all the diets and workouts and angst is the underlying longing for eternity, for something better.

- **Our resurrected bodies are like Christ's resurrected body (v.44-49)**
  - At this point, Paul draws a comparison between the bodies we inherit from Adam and the body we inherit from Christ.
  - **Phil 3:21—he will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like Christ's glorious body**
    - Adam = natural; broken; decaying, etc.
    - Jesus = spiritual (fit for the kingdom); sinless; perfect; eternal
      - **John 21—Jesus eats fish with his disciples on the beach**
      - **Luke 24—Jesus walks several miles on the Emmaus road teaching disciples**
      - **John 20—Jesus goes through a wall to enter the room where disciples were**
  - Are you imaging God? What “mirror” are you turned toward?
  - Because of the FIRST ADAM, we are incapable of perfectly imaging God.
- **How does the resurrection happen (v.50-58)?**
  - **Our resurrection happens instantaneously (v.50-53)**
    - v.52—The change of our bodies from what CANNOT dwell in the Kingdom to what RUNS FREE in the Kingdom happens in an instant—the twinkling of an eye!
    - What power here! The same God who, in a moment spoke creation to be, will in a MOMENT transform us and all things and usher in his full eternal kingdom.
    - All the years of pain and brokenness UNDONE in a flash!
    - Our new bodies will be imperishable because mere flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom. Our decaying, sin-ridden bodies CANNOT handle to unshakeable, incorruptible Kingdom.
      - **Lewis, Mere Christianity—The command, be ye perfect, is not idealistic gas nor is it a command to do the impossible. He is going to make us into creatures that can obey that command. He will make the feeblest and filthiest of us into a god or a goddess, a dazzling, radiant and immortal creature pulsating all through with such energy and joy and wisdom and love as we cannot now imagine, a bright stainless mirror which reflects back to God perfectly (though on a smaller scale) His own boundless power and delight and goodness.**
  - **Our resurrection happens collectively (v.51)**
    - “we all”—not only that EACH PERSON will but also that we all will TOGETHER!
    - It couldn't be any other way—God has always been about gathering a PEOPLE!
  - **Our resurrection happens because of Jesus' victory over sin and death (v.54-57)**
    - The dead are raised when the enemy, death, is destroyed!
    - The power of death is overcome by the power of the resurrected Christ
    - The slavery of sin is overcome by the perfection of Christ.
    - v.57—All the hope of resurrection—new body, new life, new home—is a GIFT!
    - What is the victory that we have over death—not just that we conquer death, but that it actually becomes our SLAVE.
      - Death used to be an executioner...now it has become a gardener—transforming our seed-like and frail bodies into eternal, perfect, powerful bodies to reign with Christ forever!
    - Jesus beat sin and beat death—he now offers us the GIFT of all we ever wanted—a new life in a new body in a new world!
- **How does resurrection impact today?**
  - **PERSEVERANCE**—Steadfast—endure ALL THINGS, knowing resurrection/renewal awaits!
  - **CONFIDENCE**—Immovable—we stand firm in the gospel, knowing in it is life!
  - **PURPOSE**—Abounding—we are able to WORK HARD for the gospel, know it's not in vain!