



1 Corinthians 15:35-49

35 But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" **36** You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. **37** And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. **38** But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. **39** For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. **40** There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. **41** There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. **44** It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. **45** Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. **46** But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. **47** The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. **48** As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. **49** Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Have you thought about what "kind of body" we will have? When you think about a resurrected body, what comes to mind? What leads you to think that way?

How does Paul describe the resurrected body? Is it completely alike or completely different from the bodies we have now?

*Paul uses the analogy of a seed. A seed has continuity with the tree that is created, but there is clearly a grand transformation that takes place. Thinking back to **1 Corinthians 3:6-7**, who receives credit for this transformation?*

Although we see the resurrection in Jesus Christ, there is still mystery for us in what to expect. What does Paul compare and contrast to give us a better understanding of what is to come?

*The resurrected body is the finished product of the new creation God has begun in us. **Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 5:16-29**. Because of whom do we have this hope of new creation and new life?*

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. **53** For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. **54** When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

55 “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Christians confess a faith in a life after death. We believe in a resurrection. Think for a moment what affect it would have if you thought that death was truly the end. What would that change? How would we see death differently?

The resurrection isn't just a reanimation of the dead for even those still living when Christ returns must be changed. Why does Paul say this must be?

What does it mean for death to lose its sting? Does it mean that death won't cause us grief any longer? Or does it mean that death no longer has the victory? How can we use this passage for strength and comfort when we do experience grief?

Does Paul intend for our hope of eternal life to cause us to neglect the life we are already living? What does he say in his closing line of this section in this regard?

Isaiah 25:6-9

6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. **7** And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. **8** He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. **9** It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

How is the victory we have through Jesus Christ described here? What good news do you see? With whom can you share this good news?

How can you apply these Scriptures to your life?