



## The Resurrection Body (1 Cor. 15:35-58)

There are many things that cause us fear in this life. We may fear people, circumstances, or illness. The greatest fear that people experience is usually the fear of death. We fear our own death and we fear when the death of someone we love is near. To many death is the great unknown. Since no one we have known in this life has died and returned to tell us what to expect some of what we face is unknown.

What happens to us after death? What will life be like for us after this life is finished? These are important questions that the scripture answers for us. This lesson is not a message of defeat. It is a message of victory over death. It is a message that tells us that we have not and cannot be defeated by death.

### I. Christians Will Receive a New Body

The Apostle Paul makes it clear that the body that Christians will have after death will be different from their present physical bodies. In **verses 36-40** the contrast is made between a seed and the plant it will become.

It is amazing that a kernel of wheat or some other grain can become a stalk of corn. The body that is sown is far different from the body it becomes. Unless one knows what plant will come from a seed, they could not look at the seed and envision what kind of plant it will become. Furthermore, it is necessary for the old body to die so that the new body might live. Just as the seed must die for the plant to grow, our spiritual bodies can come only after the death of our physical bodies.



The new body will be a different kind of body. There are many kinds of bodies according to Paul. Animals have bodies, birds have bodies, fish have bodies, but they are very different from one another. The sun and moon and stars all have a certain splendour, but they are all different. It is easy to look into the sky and distinguish between the sun, and moon, and the stars. They all light up the sky, but their differences are easily seen and they are remarkable. Likewise, the new body we will receive will be far different from the bodies we now inhabit.

1. What two questions are asked in verse 35?
2. Why must a seed die for a plant to grow and what point is Paul trying to make? (See also John 12:24-26)
3. Who decides what kind of body each plant, animal or person will have and how is the choice made? (vs. 38)

#### 4. Which is greater the seed or the plant it becomes?

### II. Contrasts Between the Old and New Bodies

This new body will be an everlasting. Verse 42 tells us that the body that Christians have now is *perishable*. It will age, deteriorate, and die. Solomon says in **Ecclesiastes 3:20**, our body will return to the dust. But when it is raised again, it will be imperishable.

#### 5. What contrasts does Paul make between the current earthly body and the future body? (vss. 43-44)

Physical bodies are designed to live in this physical world. They are suited for life here, but they are not suited for life in heaven. In heaven Christians will need a spiritual body and that is exactly what the Lord will give us.



In verses 45-49 the bodies of the first and second Adam are contrasted. The first Adam was that man that God created in the garden of Eden. He had a natural body and because of sin, he died. The second Adam is Jesus Christ who arose from the dead, victorious over death, and possessing a new body. It is this type of body Christians will receive.

#### 6. Why can't our physical body live in heaven? (v. 50)

### III. Death Loses Its Power

Paul calls death and the resurrection a mystery in verse 51. A mystery in the Bible is something that we cannot know except God reveals it to us. The mystery is this: Christians will sleep (die) unless they are alive at the Second Coming, but when Jesus comes again all whether dead or still living will be changed.

#### 7. How long will it take for God to change the Christian's body to a new one? (vs. 52)

#### 8. When does Paul say the change of the Christian's body will take place?

#### 9. How and when is death swallowed up in victory?

#### 10. What is the sting of death?

#### 11. Why is the law called the power of sin?



In verse 55 the Scripture actually mocks death. “O death, where is your victory?” “O death, where is your sting?” Death does not have the victory; death does not win because Christians will live again and have a body that is imperishable. Though it may seem that death is the great enemy that robs our life and joy, in Christ we understand that it is only that part of life that we must go through before we can gain our new body. The present body is just like the seed in **verse 36**. It must die before the new can come. Death is frightening if we do not know what to expect, but we do know what to expect. While we may not know every detail we know what is important.

#### **IV. Working for the Lord is Not in Vain**

**Verse 58** is an important verse, *“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.”*



Thanks be to God, however that nothing we do for Him is in vain. No work you do for the Lord is without value or merit. This verse impresses upon all people the value of working for the Lord. While the future reward is great, God expects his people to work for him while on this earth.

**12. How does a person remain steadfast and immovable?**

**13. How does 1 Corinthians 15 encourage you as a Christian?**