



DOCTRINE

ROOTED IN TRUTH

Seed to Life

- That which is sown cannot come to life unless the seed dies
- 1 Corinthians 15:35–41
- The Resurrection is the crux of the Gospel.
- If we don't believe in a bodily Resurrection, we do not really believe the Gospel as presented in the Bible.
- If Christ has not been raised from the dead, our faith is in vain. We are still in bondage to our sins and we do not have the hope of eternal life.

Seed to Life

- Paul teaches what it means that we will be raised from the dead.
- We are not raised as spiritual beings floating around.
- But with actual physical bodies – glorified, “heavenly bodies,” not just earthly ones.
- Paul taught that there will be a day where all believers (those who are alive and those who are in heaven) will be resurrected in physical bodies of a greater magnitude of holiness and splendor.

Seed to Life

- Paul said our earthly bodies are like seeds and our glorified bodies are like the full-grown plant.
- A seed must be buried and “die” to become a plant.
- When you plant a seed in the ground, the seed itself breaks open and the seedling grows out of it.
- In a similar way, our earthly bodies must die to rise again as heavenly bodies at the rapture.



Seed to Life

- The seed contains the imprint of what the full-grown plant will be.
- Mustard seeds grow into mustard plants and wheat seeds grow into wheat. A cucumber seed won't grow into a carrot.
- In the same way, our earthly bodies are an imprint of what our heavenly bodies will be; a seed looks different than a full-grown plant but there is continuity between the two.
- Our resurrected, heavenly bodies be the “full grown” version of ourselves, reflecting the image of the Father, as our bodies were meant to be.

Seed to Life

- This passage talks about the “glory” of our heavenly bodies versus the glory of our earthly bodies.
- The Greek word here is *doxa*, from which we get the word doxology, which is a hymn of praise to the Lord. The word means “glory” or “splendor,” particularly the divine quality of God, the manifestation of God’s glory.
- It’s the word used when Jesus was transfigured on the mountaintop with Peter, James and John, when “the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white” (Luke 9:29).

Seed to Life

- It's similar to when Moses went up Mount Sinai in the presence of the Lord. When he came back down his face was shining because he had been talking with God (Exodus 34:29).
- It's impossible to really know what our glorified bodies will be like in heaven, but we can trust that they will be perfected, glorified versions of who we are in this life.
- They won't be so different from who we are now that we won't recognize them, but they will be as different as a seed is from a full-grown plant.

Perishable to Imperishable

- The perishable body dies; an imperishable body is raised
- 1 Corinthians 15:42–49
- Paul continued the analogy of the seed that is sown and the full-grown plant that is raised as he compared the earthly body with the heavenly body (the glorified, resurrected body).
- The earthly body is perishable, but the heavenly body is imperishable.
- When you think about groceries, the perishable foods are things that eventually rot if you don't eat them.

Perishable to Imperishable

- But the heavenly bodies are imperishable.
- They will never rot, never spoil, never fade. Can you imagine a body that never gets sore or tired, never gets weaker or slower, never gets sick or injured, or has any difficulty at all?
- Imagine being able to play your favorite sport all day and never get tired. Or take a long hike to a beautiful waterfall and never struggle with the climb or feel out of breath.
- Imagine never having to fear the word “cancer” or “heart disease.”

Perishable to Imperishable

- The earthly “seed” body is sown in dishonor and weakness but raised in glory and power.
- Paul contrasts Adam (the first man) and Jesus (the last Adam).
- Adam, who was made from the dust of the Earth passed his nature to every person who would live.
- The last Adam, however, was resurrected by the power of the Holy Spirit and has a glorified, resurrected, heavenly body. As Christ followers, we will enjoy that heavenly body when Jesus returns for His Church.

Perishable to Imperishable

- We don't know what these bodies will be like exactly, but we know it will be like a full-grown plant compared to a seed.
- We will be recognizable as the same person, the same way you would recognize an apple tree as having grown from an apple seed.
- But our heavenly body will be completely new, made of heavenly material, and reflective of the glory of Jesus at the Transfiguration.
- We shouldn't take this to mean "immaterial" just as heavenly in these verses doesn't mean "immaterial."

Perishable to Imperishable

- Our bodies will be spiritual in the sense that they are renewed by the Spirit.
- Regardless of the details, the theological point is that our new heavenly bodies will be imperishable.
- They will never spoil or fade or get weary or sick or injured.
- We will live forever with our heavenly Father in peace, joy and harmony in a physical kingdom (not just floating on the clouds), where we will do physical heavenly work.

Kingdom of God

- Only the imperishable can inherit the kingdom of God
- This section is the glorious conclusion. Paul started by telling the Corinthians that believing in the physical Resurrection of the dead is necessary to understanding the Gospel message.
- If Christ was not raised, then we are still in bondage to our sin, which affects both: 1) this life – we cannot walk in the freedom of the new life in Christ, and 2) the life to come – we will not be raised with Him in heaven. If Christ has not been raised, our faith is meaningless and “we are of all people most to be pitied” (verse 19).

Kingdom of God

- Then Paul described in more detail what it means that we will be physically raised from the dead with new imperishable bodies. The “seed” of our old body will die and return to the earth, but the new body will be imperishable and eternal.
- In this conclusion, Paul told us why – because flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The perishable body cannot inherit the imperishable kingdom. Our old bodies simply do not belong in the final, glorified, perfect kingdom of God.
- They are of earth, not of heaven.

Kingdom of God

- This led Paul to describe the trumpet sound (verse 52).
- Paul described this in Thessalonians, when he encouraged them not to worry about those who had “fallen asleep,” before Christ’s Second Coming.
- “The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, the voice of an archangel, and the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18).

Kingdom of God

- This closing passage points ahead to the return of Christ, in which death will finally be swallowed up in victory and all things will be made new.
- Our bodies must die and be buried because to inherit the kingdom of God, we must be made new as imperishable bodies.
- We shall be changed (verse 52).
- Our bodies must be made immortal (verse 53).
- All this points us to the final victory in Christ (verse 57).

Kingdom of God

- Things may seem hard now, but we have to look ahead to the final victory and keep an eternal perspective.
- We must put our hope in the Resurrection and our inheritance in heaven (Romans 8:17), which is “imperishable, undefiled, and unfading” (1 Peter 1:4).
- This is how we get through the struggles of this life, by keeping our eyes on Jesus and running the race after Him with perseverance to the final goal (Philippians 3:12; Hebrews 12:1–2).

Kingdom of God

- This also helps us see other human beings in a different light, with an eternal perspective.
- C. S. Lewis wrote, “There are no ordinary people; you have never talked to a mere mortal.”
- He said most of us have no problem imagining our own immortality and glorious future in heaven, but it can be hard to think of other people in those terms, especially people we struggle to get along with.

Kingdom of God

- If we realized that they, too, are human beings with the potential to be made new, perfected creatures, it might change the way we treat them.
- C.S. Lewis continued, “It is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit – immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.”
- If we understood our neighbors as precious in God’s eyes with the potential to be perfected new creations in heaven by faith in Jesus, we may treat them with more respect, kindness, patience and even honor.

Four Things We
Know About the
Resurrection Body

Resurrection Body

- Imperishable - 1 Corinthians 15:42
- Lazarus was raised from the dead (John 11), but his body came back in the same body. It was not a resurrection body and would die again.
- Jesus rose in the power of an endless life (Hebrews 7:16) and will never die again. That is how our resurrection body will be.
- Your resurrection body will not age, will not decline, and will not die.

Resurrection Body

- Glorious - 1 Corinthians 15:43
- The best example is the face of Moses when he came down from the mountain after he had been in the presence of God.
- His face was shining because he had been in God's presence.
- Also, think about the transfiguration of Jesus. That was a preview of the future glory of Jesus and provides us with an earthy example of glorious.
- It isn't just a brilliance around you, but it is actually in you.

Resurrection Body

- Powerful - 1 Corinthians 15:43
- “It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.”
- The resurrection body is going to have more energy, more physical capability, more stamina, more athleticism, more speech, more coordination, more durability.
- Think of what this means for your friends who have been restricted to wheelchairs or have various physical challenges.

Resurrection Body

- Garden of Eden offers a picture - pursuit of creativity, pursuit of science, development of technology.
- Donald MacLeod - “Now only the Creator but the Creation, too will be an object of wonder to the redeemed. It will challenge their intellect, fire their imaginations, and stimulate their industry. The scenario is a thrilling one: brilliant minds in powerful bodies in a transformed universe.”
- Witnessing opportunities: - (at the gym) How would you like a powerful body? (in mental decline) How would you like to have brilliant mind?

Resurrection Body

- Godly - 1 Corinthians 15:44
- When Paul talks about the spiritual body, he is talking about a material body that is responsive to the Holy Spirit.
- You will never say, “the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
- This is a body adapted to life forever and will never decline
- It is a body that is glorious and powerful.
- It is fully responsive to the Holy Spirit.

How Should We
Live in Light of
Our Resurrection Body

Owned by Jesus Christ

- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - “You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”
- Christ has a right to determine where you live, what you do, how you live.
- Jesus bought you with a price.
- He is calling you to live a life that glorifies Him and follow His divine calling in your life.

Holiness

- 2 Corinthians 7:1 - “Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.”
- We have these promises, and thus have a future.
- As we follow God’s calling, we should do it in a way that is pleasing to God.
- Do not use your body as a vehicle for sin (Romans 6:13).
- Honor Christ is what you say and what you do.

Living Sacrifice

- Romans 12:1 - “I appeal to you, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”
- We should give our heart, soul, and mind to God.
- We should present all that we are to God and honor Christ by doing so.
- The new earth will be a vast improvement over the present earth. Our resurrection bodies will be a vast improvement over our current bodies.
- We should be preparing for that new earth and our new bodies.

Resources

