

## Our Resurrection Bodies Described in Detail 1 Corinthians 15:35-50

### Introduction:

1. There were teachers who had infiltrated the church at Corinth who were denying the physical resurrection of the dead. vs. 12
2. Paul devotes this entire chapter to defending the truth of Christ's resurrection, and the resurrection of those who believe on Christ.
3. After doing a masterful job of defending the truth of the resurrection, Paul anticipates questions from the skeptics. vs. 35
  - "How is it going to happen and what kind of body will I have?"
  - These skeptics knew that the body returned to dust; therefore they reasoned that it was an impossibility to raise a decomposed body and put it back together.
4. Paul uses the illustration of a seed. When you sow a seed into the ground, it dies, but yet it still has the germ of life in it, and from it comes life. But the life that comes from the seed (the wheat) doesn't look like the seed that was buried in the ground. vs. 36-37; cf. **John 12:24**
  - It has a different body than the original seed that was buried in the dirt, yet it is a continuation of life from the original seed. They are connected. You don't sow wheat and get barley. vs. 38
5. What is the point? Your resurrection body will be connected to your original physical body (it is still you), but it will be a completely different **kind** of body.
6. God isn't going to simply reconstruct your old, decomposed body and put it back together again. There will be a transformation process whereby your new bodies will be completely different in nature and character than your old bodies. **Philippians 3:21**
  - The word "change" means "to transform." The Greek word is where we get the word "metamorphosis" from.
  - Webster's says that "transform" means A) "to change in composition or structure;" B) "to change the outward form or appearance of;" C) "to change in character or condition."
  - This is exactly what will occur when we get our new, resurrection bodies.
7. As we will see in this text, resurrection bodies are distinctly **different** than physical, earthly bodies. Paul uses two illustrations to demonstrate that they will be different:  
**The illustration of flesh - vs. 39**
  - Within God's creation on earth, there are different kinds of flesh. God placed boundaries between the genetic structures of different kinds of flesh. Mankind, beasts, birds, and fish all reproduce after their kind.
  - Here is the point - if God can make different kinds of bodies in His creation on earth, why can't God make a different kind of resurrection body for us?**The illustration of the celestial bodies - vs. 40-41**
  - Terrestrial simply means "of or relating to earth."
  - Celestial means "of or relating to the heavens."
  - The sun, moon, and stars are celestial bodies, and they differ in glory. God created each one with a specific purpose in mind. Their brightness (glory) is determined by their function.

- Who created and made all those celestial bodies? God did! And He created them as it pleased Him. He gave them bodies that would function with the purpose that He had in mind. This is why they differ in glory.
  - Here is the point - if God can create all those different kinds of heavenly bodies to function in the vast universe, God has no problem designing resurrection bodies for you and me to function in for eternity. vs. 42 ("*so also is the resurrection...*")
  - Just as God has designed different earthly bodies (man, beast, fish, birds), and also designed different celestial bodies (sun, moon, stars), God will give us specially designed bodies that will function in the eternal realm.
8. At this point, Paul now begins to explain the new nature of our resurrection bodies. This text gives us more detail than any other passage concerning the resurrection bodies that we will possess for all eternity.

### **Our resurrection bodies will be incorruptible. vs. 42**

1. What does incorruptible mean? It means "incapable of corruption, not subject to decay."
2. Your new body will not have the capability of decaying or corrupting in any way.
  - Adam was made out of the red clay dirt of the earth. **Genesis 2:7**
  - When Adam sinned, the decay and corruption process immediately began working in his body. In Adam's day, when the environment and conditions on planet earth were different, it took about 900 years for his body to finally wear out, but it **did** wear out.
  - God warned Adam of this right after he sinned in **Genesis 3:19**.
  - Now it takes about 70 to 90 years. The body then disintegrates and returns to dust. It is sown in corruption.
3. But Paul said that our new resurrection bodies will be raised in incorruption.
4. Our new bodies will not be subject to disease or sickness. They will not be subject to death or the decay process in any way. Death is swallowed up in victory. vs. 54
  - You won't be carrying on the business of heaven with a headache. You won't have to worry about taking your medicine at the right time. No more doctor appointments. No need for x-rays or oxygen masks.
  - All that is past, and you will have a body that is incorruptible. We try so hard to compensate for the natural deterioration process in these old clay vessels, but it won't be necessary in eternity. You will have a body that is always functioning at top level. You will never run out of gas.

### **Our resurrection bodies will be raised in glory. vs. 43a**

1. Paul says that our bodies are sown in dishonor. Think about it - typically you take the body, put it in a box, and bury it in the earth. It is cold, lifeless, and speaks to the fact that you lost the battle with death. You couldn't beat it.
  - The only other option is that you take the body, put it through the fires of a crematory, and burn the body into ashes.
2. No matter how hard you try and make the disposal of a body honorable (by burning or burying it), death reflects the fact that the sin nature inhabited our bodies. The

dishonor is because the law of sin dwells in our flesh. Paul calls it a "*vile body*" in Philippians 3:21.

- You don't believe your body is vile? Try not washing it for 4 or 5 days. If you die, what if people did nothing to your body and just let it lay there for a week? It is a vile body.
3. But Paul said that our new bodies will be raised in **glory**.
  4. When you are raised from the dead, your new body will reveal, demonstrate, and reflect the glory of your Savior, Jesus Christ.
    - A lady puts on fancy clothes, covers the blemishes with make-up, fixes her hair, puts on perfume and jewelry, and somebody says to her, "You are radiant." It may have taken 4 hours and a pile of money to fix up that vile body, but she is radiant.
  5. Your resurrection body? This won't be necessary. You will naturally radiate the glory of your Savior. People who look at you will see the glory of Jesus Christ. **Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:16-17; Colossians 3:4; Philippians 3:21**
  6. When you die and you are buried, it tells people who **you** are - a sinner in whose flesh dwells the law of sin. When you are raised, your resurrection body will tell people who **Christ** is! You will demonstrate **His** glory.
  7. Your new body will naturally and instinctively radiate the character, essence, and life of Jesus Christ.
  8. This is what we **want** to do **now**. In that day, it will be a reality - no flesh to hold you down. The attributes, character, and life of Christ will be put on display through us. **Ephesians 2:7**

### **Our resurrection bodies will be raised in power. vs. 43b**

1. Even at our best, these physical, fleshly bodies are weak. They said about the apostle Paul, "*...his bodily presence is weak...*" **2 Corinthians 10:10**
2. Even the most physically fit bodies have limitations and get tired. A guy may be able to bench press 350 pounds of weight, but I would like to see him try to walk through that wall.
3. Did you know Jesus could do this in His resurrection body? **John 20:19**
  - The wall was of no effect to Him in His resurrection body. His body was not limited by the laws of physical matter.
4. Christ told Mary not to touch Him in John 20:17 because He hadn't ascended to the third heaven yet, but within 2 hours He had ascended and came back to planet earth and allowed people to touch him (**Matthew 28:9**).
5. Do you realize the implication of this?
  - Just to go to another galaxy in this massive universe, your grandchildren would be old before you could get there in a spaceship.
  - There are more than 100 billion galaxies in the observable universe! Christ went through the entire massive universe to the third heaven, performed His high priestly functions, and was back to planet earth in less than 2 hours.
  - This means He was traveling way faster than the speed of light (which is 186,000 miles per second). The closest star to earth is 24,000,000,000,000 miles away.

6. We will have a body like Christ's. What power! If we are going to function and oversee this massive universe in eternity, and oversee the angelic hosts in the heavenly places, then we will need some bodies with power! And we will have them.
7. Paul said that our bodies are sown in weakness, but raised in power. Aren't you looking forward to your resurrection body?