

## 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?

**Our resurrection bodies will be raised spiritual bodies. vs. 45-46**

1. All of us have natural bodies that are designed to function in this physical, natural realm called planet earth. Our bodies cannot function in the heavens. If you don't believe this, go up in an airplane just 30,000 feet and open the window for some fresh air.
2. Our bodies go into the grave natural bodies, but they will be raised spiritual bodies. We will have a body like Christ that is able to function in the heavenly, spiritual realm.
3. Please keep in mind that when Paul calls it a spiritual body, this doesn't mean that it isn't real. It is a literal, real body, but it simply won't be made out of the same physical flesh that we have now. How do we know it is a literal body?
4. Look at Christ after He rose from the dead. Luke 24:39-43. Several things we learn from this text:
  - While we will have a **spiritual** body, it **is** in fact a body. You won't be some disembodied spirit in eternity. Your new spiritual body will house your soul and spirit. Notice Christ had hands and feet. You won't look like some creature on the late, late, late show.
  - Your new body will still be you! Christ said, "*It is I myself.*" You will still have your identity in heaven and we will know each other.
  - Your new body will have structure (flesh and bones). But it won't be the fallen flesh of humanity that we have today.
  - We will have the ability to eat in our new bodies! Isn't this great news? And we won't have to count fat grams, calories, or worry about cholesterol.
5. There is a spiritual world operating right now that is just as real as the physical world that you see and hear. Example of this: **2 Kings 6:13-17**
6. You will have a body, not made by hands (**2 Corinthians 5:1**), designed by God Himself that will allow you to function in that spiritual world.
7. Adam was made a living soul, but he sinned and died. Your first body came from him. But the last Adam (Christ) was made a quickening spirit. Christ brings resurrection and life.
  - Christ is called the last Adam because Christ alone regains all that humanity lost in the first Adam.
8. The first body you receive is natural. It is a body designed to function on planet earth. In that natural body you have a will. You have the ability to make choices and decisions. Adam was created with volition (the ability to make choices).
9. That body will decay, but afterward, you get your spiritual body (vs. 46) if in your natural body you made a decision for Christ. This is a principle all through the Bible - first the natural, then the spiritual.
  - Cain - the natural man, Abel - the spiritual man

- Ishmael - the natural man, Isaac - the spiritual man
  - Esau - the natural man, Jacob - the spiritual man
  - Jesus told Nicodemus (a ruler of Israel), "*Ye must be born again.*" The first birth God gave Israel isn't enough. They need a second birth which they will receive at Christ's Second Coming.
10. This is a principle all throughout the Bible and is also true in regards to your body. The body that you will live in and function in throughout eternity is **not** the one you have now. So don't fall in love with the body you have now because you will get one that is much better.

### **Our resurrection bodies will bear the image of Christ. vs. 47-50**

1. An image has to do with a body and the nature that goes with that body.
2. Your bodily image comes from the first man, Adam. You have two ears, two arms, two hands, etc., because Adam did. Adam wasn't some half man, half gorilla creature walking around with long arms and his knuckles dragging the ground.
  - Adam, of course, sinned and we all come from Adam. We bear the image of the earthy. **Romans 5:12** - In our bodies dwells that same sin nature.
3. But we shall also bear the image of the heavenly (Christ).
  - What is the nature of Christ? Righteousness. We will receive a new body that will bear Christ's image and have the nature of Christ! We will never displease the Lord again. The old nature is gone forever.
  - **Romans 8:29** - We will have a resurrection body that conforms to the image of His Son. Just as we reflect Adam's image now, but have our own distinct DNA and identity, we will reflect Christ's image in heaven.
4. Right now, to see you is to see the image of Adam, but in eternity, to see you will be to see the image of Jesus Christ.
5. Our new bodies won't be like our natural bodies in the way they function.
  - In our natural bodies that we got from Adam, the life is in the blood and comes from the blood. But in heaven you will leave all that behind and the Adamic nature and bloodline that goes with it.
  - In eternity our life doesn't come from blood, it comes from Christ. Your new body will not operate through a circulatory system of blood. vs. 50
6. This is why Christ said that he had flesh and bones (**Luke 24:39**). Your new body will have structure (flesh and bones), but Christ shed His blood at Calvary as a sacrifice and payment for our sins.
7. Flesh and blood as we know it on planet earth cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The body you have now will do you no good in heaven. You will become part of a new species of humanity that will not be kin to this earth. It won't be earthy.
8. We will bear the image of the heavenly. We will reign in the heavenlies and have bodies that are designed to function and transport us around in the heavenly realm.
9. What should all of this teach us? The body you have now - don't put your eggs in that basket.
10. Be concerned with your inner man - growing your inner soul and spirit through the study and application of God's Word. Why? Because your new body will be transporting around that soul and spirit throughout eternity!