

RESURRECTION IS A PART OF THE NEW CREATION

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

...what counts is a new creation. (Galatians 6:15)

Introduction – Resurrection means a re-embodied existence, not one of only an immortal soul. Plato said the physical body was the prison of the immortal soul and we should want to escape it through death for the better life of pure soul. In contrast, the Bible says the physical creation, including human bodies, are “very good” (Genesis 1:31). It is the introduction of sin and death through human rebellion against God that results in the corruption of this very good creation (Genesis 3).

A. Last week we saw that Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection are of first importance in the gospel. Paul challenged the logic of some Corinthians who denied the resurrection in the opening verses of 1 Corinthians chapter 15.

1 Corinthians 15:35-41

1. The objections to the resurrection hope are:
 - a. What agency can resurrect the body?
 - b. What kind of body would a resurrection body be?
2. First he illustrates the resurrection process by comparing it to sowing seeds, which die in the ground to produce bodies very different from the physical form of the original seed.
3. Then he points out the many kinds of physicality in creation, from creatures to heavenly bodies. These are the result of the work of the Creator God.

B. Our resurrection bodies will bear the image of the image of the man from heaven – Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:42-49

1. The contrast is between our natural bodies (*psyche soma*) or “soulish” bodies and our future spiritual bodies (*pneuma soma*) or Spirit-transformed bodies.
2. Our common *psyche* bodies are perishable, dishonorable, and weak. Our future *pneuma* bodies will be imperishable, glorious, and powerful.
3. Adam is the model for the *psyche* bodies and Jesus for the *pneuma* bodies.

C. What will happen to those who are alive at the return of Christ?

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

1. Those who are alive at Jesus’ return will be transformed in an instant and be clothed with an immortal body.

2. The ultimate victory of God over sin and death, predicted by the prophets Isaiah and Hosea, has been accomplished through our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. There is continuity between our lives as disciples of Jesus in the here and now and the new creation world that is coming.
4. Our hard work for the Lord in our vocation, family, community, and physical creation is not in vain; instead it is equipping us to live in the new creation.

Conclusion – The first Christians gathered to celebrate Jesus victory over Satan, sin, and death on the first day of the week (Sunday), because it is the day on which the resurrection occurred. It also showed their belief in the hope of a new creation.

Mark 16:9

1 Corinthians 16:2

Acts 20:7

Discussion Questions

1. How do many people misunderstand the nature of the resurrection when it is called a spiritual body?
2. What analogies did he use to illustrate the nature of transformed resurrection bodies?
3. How does the resurrection hope connect with our lives now in Christ?