

Unity over the Resurrection (1 Cor 15)

“Getting the Resurrection Right Pt. 3” (1 Cor 15:35-58)

1. The Anatomy of the Resurrection Body (vv. 36-49)

Paul begins by explaining what the resurrection will look like for the believer.

-It is like a seed that dies as a seed but then becomes the plant.

-Imagine an apple seed. It is “naked,” without its body, before it becomes an apple. In the same way, our bodies are seeds planted to grow and blossom into something wholly different.

-All creatures have different physical makeups (flesh) for the environments they live in. Even non-living things are determined for the environments they exist in. Our bodies will be adapted for a new existence. We will no longer have a sinful, fallen, temporal existence, our existence will be in heavenized spaces in eternity.

-We currently have a sinful, soulish body made after Adam who fell into sin. Our new body, our spiritual body, will be made after the Lord from heaven. We bear Adam’s image we will bear Jesus’s image fully.

2. The Resurrection will occur at the Lord’s coming when all of death is swallowed up in victory (vv. 50-57)

Paul explains that some people may alive when the Lord returns. But he clarifies that we cannot inherit the kingdom of God as we are. There must be a change. Flesh and blood as they are now will be transformed. This means that God will miraculously remove all corruption from our bodies and make us incorruptible and immortal. We will live in bodies that the Lord has provided forever. Death will no longer have power over us as it does not have power over Jesus. The sting of death is sin and the power of sin, what gives it is force, is the law. The law has been fulfilled in Jesus and we who believe in Jesus fulfill the law. Thus, sin has lost its power over us as we are not debtors to completing it. As a consequence, without sin, death cannot keep power over us. This is why every believer has the victory.

3. Stay in what God has taught us and grow because we have the victory in Jesus! (v. 58)

Paul concludes this section with an exhortation with a warning, by implication. Stay in the doctrines we have been taught. Do not move into something else. But take what God has given, grow in it continually, and keep working. Only in Jesus is our labor productive. Otherwise, when we put our efforts towards something else, we are wasting our time in something that will make us lose our lives.