"A NEW YOU on Resurrection Day!"

I Corinthians 15:35-57
4/20/2014

***If you are in Christ, a new body awaits you on Resurrection Day!**

On Resurrection day what will we be like?

On Resurrection day we will have. . .

I. A <u>DIFFERENT</u> Body (v. 35-44a)
(Not the <u>same version</u> as our earthly body)

Our new body will be . . .

A. As different as <u>seeds</u> look from <u>crops</u> (v. 35-38)

B. As different as one <u>creation</u> is from <u>another</u> (v. 39-41)

C. As different as <u>earth</u> is from <u>Heaven</u> (v. 42-44a)

On Resurrection day we will have. . .

II. A <u>CHRIST-LIKE</u> Body (v. 44b-49)
(Not made from earthly <u>Adamic dust</u>)

On Resurrection day we will have. . .

III. An <u>INCORRUPTIBLE</u> Body (v. 50-53)
(Not capable of decay or the effects of sin -- such as <u>aging</u>, <u>illness</u>, or <u>injury</u>)

On Resurrection day we will have. . .

IV. An <u>IMMORTAL</u> Body (v. 54-57)
(Not subject to <u>death</u>)

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What is the practical significance of Christ's Resurrection to me?

- A living Savior is essential for our justification (Romans 4:25-5:1)
- A living Savior guarantees the security of our salvation: (Romans 5:10)
- A living Savior will share His resurrection life with us!

***If you are in Christ, a new body awaits you on Resurrection Day!**

On Resurrection day what will we be like?

On Resurrection day we will have. . .

I. **A** _____ **Body** (v. 35-44a)
(Not the _____ as our earthly body)

Our new body will be . . .

A. As different as _____ look from _____ (v. 35-38)

B. As different as one _____ is from _____ (v. 39-41)

C. As different as _____ is from _____ (v. 42-44a)

On Resurrection day we will have. . .

II. **A** _____ **Body** (v. 44b-49)
(Not made from earthly _____)

On Resurrection day we will have. . .

III. **An** _____ **Body** (v. 50-53)
(Not capable of decay or the effects of sin -- such as aging, illness, or injury)

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(Not subject to _____)

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INTRODUCTION:

The 1 Corinthians 15 Context:

INTRODUCTION: (v. 1-11)

The occasion which sparked Paul's defense of the Resurrection in I Cor. 15 was not that the Corinthians were denying Christ's resurrection, but that some at Corinth were denying the reality of a resurrection, period (i.e. the reality of the possibility of resurrection itself).

They, living in Corinth - a Greek city, were swallowing the liberal Hellenistic (Greek) philosophy (cp. v. 33) that there was no such thing as the resurrection of the dead (cp. Athens - Acts 17:32).

v.5

God does not have to prove anything to anyone. But He does list authenticating witnesses to Christ's resurrection.

In the Law, God established that two or three witnesses could authenticate a fact (Dt. 19:15; cp. Mt. 18:16). Here, He lists more than that!

"The twelve" - With Judas having committed suicide, and with Peter (*"Cephas")* already having been mentioned as having seen the resurrected Christ [leaving the 10 other disciples], who were the other two who witnessed His resurrection? Answer: One possibility is that it was the two people on the road to Emmaus (Lk. 24:13-43), or the other two could have been Joseph (calls Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus) and Matthias (Acts 1:22-23).

V. 7

"James" - the Lord's half-brother who didn't believe that Jesus was the Christ until after his resurrection (cp. Jn. 7:5; Acts 1:14).

V. 8

"Last of all" - Paul was the last one to visibly see Jesus Christ.

(We today walk pure *"by faith, not by sight"* [II Cor. 5:7], *"whom having not seen, ye love..."* [I Pet. 1:8])

"One born out of due time" - Paul became an apostle several years after Jesus had ordained the twelve and commissioned them.

The conversion of Saul of Tarsus is one of the biggest proofs of Christ's resurrection. He was an enemy of Christ who witnessed His resurrection, and was forced to believe by the undeniable evidence which he saw with his eyes and heard with his ears (Acts 9:3).

V. 9
"I persecuted the church of God" - Paul had persecuted the same church he was now part of (cp. Gal. 1:23).

V. 10
The grace that came to Paul was <u>not</u> a wasted investment; he brought forth good dividends.

Note: Paul's humility

Christ's resurrection is fact, not hallucination or deception.

Jesus appeared to:

--Mary Magdalene (Mk. 16:9)

--The two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Mk. 16:12; Lk. 24:13-35) and ate with them in their home (Lk. 24:30)

--Peter (Lk. 23:34)

--The eleven disciples (Mk. 16:14). They also handled Him, saw His hands and feet, and saw Him eat in their presence (Lk. 24:36-43).

* At His first appearance, Thomas was missing (Jn. 20:19-25), then again He appeared with Thomas present (Jn. 20:26-31)

* Then to seven of the disciples up in Galilee (Jn. 21:1ff)

--Then to over 500 brethren at once (SEE: I Cor. 15:1-8)

--Then to Stephen (Acts 7:55-56)

--Then to Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:5)

**Christ's resurrection is an irrefutable fact of history!*
(a fact which has practical ramifications for you!)

Evidences for Christ's resurrection:

1.	The FACT of His BURIAL	Matthew 27:57-61
2.	The GUARDING of His TOMB	27:62-66
3.	The TESTIMONY of an ANGEL	28:1-8
4.	The PHYSICAL APPEARANCE of CHRIST	28:9-10
5.	The BRIBE of the JEWS	28:11-15

Other proofs of Christ's resurrection:

6. The grave clothes were left behind (Jn. 20:5-7)

(If Christ's body had been stolen, there is no way they would have wasted the time to unwrap Him)

7. The cowardly disciples were transformed and were even willing to all die as martyrs for their faith
8. Even Saul of Tarsus, an enemy of Christ, was compelled to believe in Him when he saw the resurrected Savior
9. Jesus is transforming people today, as He has for nearly 2,000 years

Hymn: "You ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart"

After Paul gave three factual proofs validating the authenticity of Christ's resurrection (#1 - their salvation (v. 1-2); #2 - the O.T. Scriptures (v. 3-4); #3 - the many witnesses (v. 5-11))

What is the practical significance of Christ's Resurrection to me?

A living Savior is <u>essential for our justification</u>

Romans 4:25-5:1 Who (Jesus) was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

A living Savior <u>guarantees the security</u> of our salvation:

Ro 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

A living Savior will <u>share His resurrection life with us</u> who believe on Him

Christ's Resurrection guarantees our resurrection.

- John 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.
- John 14:19 - … because I live, ye shall live also.
- Colossians 3:4 - When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

If you don't like what you look like now, wait awhile; a new look is coming soon!

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On Resurrection day what will we be like?

On Resurrection day we will have. . .

I. A <u>DIFFERENT</u> Body (v. 35-44a)
(Not the <u>same version</u> as our earthly body)

Our new body will be . . .

A. As different as <u>seeds</u> look from <u>crops</u> (v. 35-38)

V. 35

Note: Wiersbe ILLUS: p. 620.

> Some heretics at Corinth who denied the resurrection from the dead perhaps mockingly asked: "How can a dead, decayed corpse rise from the grave, and if so, what would it look like?"

V. 36

The ***"fool"*** thought he had asked a question which could not be answered.

> Paul (under inspiration) answers it with an analogy from farming. For a seed to germinate and produce a living plant or crop, it must first die (it must be planted in the earth, undergo decay ("die"), the formerly hard shell breaks off and new life sprouts upward.
>
> Jesus spoke of His life being like a kernel of wheat which would be put into the ground and die to then sprout and produce much fruit (Jn. 12:24 - *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit")*.

V. 37

> The seed you plant bears <u>no resemblance</u> to the crop it will produce (a seed is totally different in size, shape, and color from the plant which grows out of it).
>
> Therefore, in the same way, the body which is resurrected is <u>totally different</u> than the old body (*"seed"*) that died and germinated.

V. 38

Just as God has determined the appearance of each species, He has determined what we will look like in the future.

Just as God gave each seed its own unique appearance when it becomes a full-grown crop, so He has given each person his own unique appearance (differentiating people from the rest of creation and giving each person a distinct appearance from others -- even identical twins have differences in looks).

B. As different as one creation is from another (v. 39-41)

V. 39

"All flesh is not the same flesh" - We are not all the same species (each reproduces after its own kind - Gen. 1:24, 25, keeping the species distinctly different).

This truth denies the evolutionary "circle of life" theories which hypothesize that people and animals are relatives with common ancestors down the evolutionary scale.

The DNA differences in each species disproves evolution and prevents a species from blending with another.

Paul's point is this: "If God is able to make different kinds of bodies for men, animals, birds, and fish, why can He not make a different kind of body for us at the resurrection? (Pet lovers, take note: Paul did not teach here that animals will be resurrected; he only used them as an example)" (Wiersbe, p. 620).

V. 40

"Celestial" - heavenly (the creations existing in the first and second heavens: ie. the sky and space).

"Terrestrial" - earthly (i.e. of the terrain on this planet).

There are vast distinctions between what God has created in outer space and what He has created on earth (earth's gravity, water cycle, rotation and orbit, size, shape, temperature, features, etc., are distinct from all other planets).

If scientists are looking for life in outer space like that on earth, they might as well give up, because they will not find it!

V. 40-41

The sky, the earth, the sun, the moon and the stars each radiate a distinct glory and each uniquely manifests the power, wisdom, and glory of God, who created them.

V. 41

Even the ***"stars"*** differ from each other. This two millennia old Bible truth is now substantiated by astronomical science and recent space shuttle discoveries.

V. 42

"So also is the resurrection" - Just as there are differences in God's creation, there are differences between a dead person and a resurrected person.

C. As different as <u>earth</u> is from <u>Heaven</u> (v. 42-44a)

V. 42

As is true of all seeds and plants, the plant is more beautiful than the seed (EX: a tulip bulb is ugly compared to the tulip it produces - Wiersbe, p. 620).

No matter how nice the mortician cosmetically dresses up the body, and no matter how well they embalm or mummify the body, it will eventually decompose and decay.

V. 42-43

Note the <u>contrasts</u>. Our bodies will undergo a <u>change</u> in:

1) Character (quality)

--"sown (planted in the grave) ***in corruption"*** (subject to rot and ruin)

--***"raised in incorruption"*** (not subject to decay)

2) Value (dignity)

--***"sown in dishonor"*** (the body is worthless at death)

--***"raised in glory"*** (beaming with value)

V. 43-44a

3) Strength (integrity)

--***"sown in weakness"*** (a corpse has no strength)

--***"raised in power"***

4) Essence (nature)

--***"sown a natural body"*** (back to earthly dust from which it was made)

--***"raised a spiritual body"*** (a literal body but with supernatural ability)

> [Our natural body came from a natural source - the earth via Adam; however, our spiritual body will come from a spiritual source - heaven via Christ.]

On Resurrection day we will have. . .

II. A <u>CHRIST-LIKE</u> Body (v. 44b-49)
(Not made from earthly <u>Adamic dust</u>)

V. 45

"It is written" in Gen. 2:7 - *"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."*

"The last Adam" - Jesus Christ was eternally a life-giving spirit.

Note the contrast between ***"soul"*** and ***"spirit"*** (man's soul is that immaterial invisible aspect which relates to this life; whereas man's spirit. . . relates to God and heaven).

V. 46

Scripture teaches that man goes from ***"natural"*** (soulish - *psuche*) to ***"spiritual"*** -- not as some pagan beliefs teach, that pre-existing spirits become trapped in natural mankind.
(It is interesting to note that people also do not begin spiritual, but begin natural and then become spiritual via the new birth of the Holy Spirit.)

V. 47

"First man" - Adam (whose name means "from the ground, dirt, or dust") - came from the earth

"Second man" - Christ did not come into existence as Adam did; rather, He is the eternal ***"Lord"*** who came ***"from Heaven"***

V. 48

"Earthly" **=** Adam

"Heavenly" **=** Christ

As Adam was, so are they who are related to Adam -- We take after him being natural, earthly creatures of dust fitted for the earth.

As Christ is, so are they who are related to Christ -- We will take after Him and be supernatural, heavenly creatures fitted for Heaven.

Via our first birth, we inherited the natural (earthly); however, via our second birth, we inherit the spiritual (heavenly).

V. 49

Just as we took after (resembled) Adam, so we will take after (resemble) Jesus

Christ.

I John 3:2 - *"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."*

Romans 8:29 - *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."*

God will take the Adamic dust into which the dead have decayed, and will transform it or change it (just as He will do to living saints at Christ's return - v. 51.).

"In His resurrection body, Jesus was able to move quickly from place to place, and even walk through locked doors; yet He was also able to eat food, and His disciples were able to eat food, and His disciples were able to touch Him and feel Him (Lk. 24:33-43; Jn. 20:19-29) (cited by Wiersbe, p. 620).

On Resurrection day we will have. . .

III. An INCORRUPTIBLE Body (v. 50-53)
(Not capable of decay or the effects of sin -- such as aging, illness, or injury)

v. 50

Unless a drastic transformation was to occur to our bodies, we could never stand in the presence of Heaven.

Human flesh and blood would be incinerated in the presence of a holy God (no one could stand in the immediate, unveiled presence of the glory of God and live (Exod. 33:20, God said to Moses, "*And He said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live."*)

This is why John had to be transported *"in the spirit,"* not in the flesh, into the presence of the Lord (Rev. 1:10). Paul, though still living in the body, was out of the body when he was caught up into the third Heaven (II Cor. 12:2-3).

"The only way we can enjoy the glory of heaven is to have a body suited to that environment" (Wiersbe, p. 620).

(EX: You can't go into the environment of outer space without a space suit; you can't go into the depths of the ocean without head gear that can take the water pressure and oxygen masks to breath)

This is why the new birth is essential to entering the kingdom of Heaven (Jn. 3:3-5). Without the new birth, one does not possess the Holy Spirit and without Him, no one experiences the resurrection of the just (Rom. 8:11 - *"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the death dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.")*

"Corruption" cannot inherit ***"incorruption"*** - To do so would be like saying:

--A mobster (crime boss) can work as a church treasurer.

--A pimp can work for the child welfare department.

--A drug addict can be hired at the local pharmacy.

Such are contradictory! No on with corrupt flesh can inhabit an incorrupt Heaven.

V. 51

"Mystery" - That which has been concealed but now is revealed.

The mystery is <u>not</u> the <u>resurrection</u>
(since this truth was known in the Old Testament -

> Is. 26:19 - *"Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead."*
> Job 19:26 - *"And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God"*
> Daniel 12:2 - *"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."*

The mystery is the <u>rapture</u> of living saints along with the resurrection of the dead.

"Not all sleep. . . all be changed" - Does <u>not</u> refer to infants in the nursery (!), but means not every believer will die (some will be alive at Christ's second coming), but all (dead and living) will be altered (transformed) by God.

V. 52

The dead saints actually are raised moments before the living saints at Christ's

return (I Th. 4:15-17 - *"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.")*

V. 51 - *"changed"* - Phil. 3:20-31 - *"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."* Job 14:14-15 - *"If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands."*

V. 52

"In a moment" - *in an indivisible, small, flash of time*

"In the twinkling of an eye" - As quick as a glance, as rapid as a blind; some have defined the speed as the time it takes for light to pass from the outer eye to the retina.

"The last trump" - Many Bible students with good reason view this "last trump" to be the seventh trumpet of Rev. 11:15-18. It is stated that at the seventh trumpet the "mystery" of God will be complete (Rev. 10:7), and that God's wrath would come (11:18), and that the dead would be judged and rewarded (11:18; cp. II Tim. 4:1).

However, this trump will evidently be one that God Himself blows (*"the trump of God"* - I Th. 4:16), whereas an angel blows the seventh trumpet in Rev. 11:15).

This *"trumpet"* will be a sound to summon the people together; to break camp with this earth; and to announce the judgment of God on His enemies. The trumpet was used in these three ways in the Old Testament (Exod. 19:13; Num. 10:1-2; Josh. 20:7; cp. Is. 27:13).

V. 53

Our bodily change is essential at the rapture, because corruption must be replaced

with incorruption in order to inherit incorruption.

To live forever without pain, suffering and death, we must have a body which s not subject to such. The Scripture speaks of this in Rev. 21:4-5.

On Resurrection day we will have. . .

IV. An <u>IMMORTAL</u> Body (v. 54-57)
(Not subject to <u>death</u>)

V. 54

"Mortal" - refers to that which is subject to death.

On Resurrection day, Scripture will be fulfilled which says: *"He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it."* (Is. 25:8)

SEE: II Cor. 5:1-4

V. 55

"Sting" - "The word represents death as a venomous creature, a scorpion, or a hornet which is rendered harmless" (RP, cited by Reinecker, p. 445).

Death will be rendered stingless and powerless to those resurrected. This grim reaper will no longer be feared.

The ***"Law"*** shows man to be sinful and ***"sin"*** leads to ***"death"*** But one day sin's sting of death will be abolished for the child of God.

V. 57

"Giveth" - present tense - emphasizing that our victory over death is a <u>present</u> and <u>certain</u> reality.

All the credit goes to God, who gives us the triumphant conquest over the grave through the person and work of none other than Jesus Christ.

Through out eternity we will thank God for His free gift of salvation and eternal life.

CONCLUSION:

It is vital to note that just as God will give believers bodies suited for Heaven, "the lost will

be given bodies suited to their environment in hell. They will suffer forever in darkness and pain (Mt. 25:41; II Thes. 1:7-10; Rev. 20:11-15)" (Wiersbe, p. 621)

Trust Jesus before it's too late!