

Easter 2019

1 Corinthians 15

In the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are given a new life. Instead of clinging to this fragile and fading life on earth, we are offered a life in Jesus that is far better than we could ever understand. We have to be able to reflect and recognize the brokenness of this world and of ourselves to be able to receive and rest in our new life in Christ.

Application

1. Jesus gives us a new life that this life cannot deliver. How might you be looking at Jesus just for answers to make this life better? When you come to worship God, what occupies your mind?
2. To receive our new life in Jesus, we have to be “done” with this life we have. When is a time in your story where you came to the end of yourself and recognized your need for a new life in Christ? When has it been clear to you that this life is not something we can hang onto?
3. Because of our distractedness, we have a deeply inhibited moral imagination, and we are content with tiny stimulation throughout the day. How does this resonate with you and in what ways are you distracted? How are you going to create space to reflect on Jesus?
4. Jesus frees us up to live for him—to work enthusiastically, not be discouraged by lack of progress, not worry about the things we can’t control, and joyfully and confidently lean into the hope we know is coming. How can you apply this truth to your week?

Key Points

- We are a distracted people. Instead of allowing that distractedness to keep us from thinking about the profound mysteries of eternity, we need to let ourselves feel small and powerless and reflect on how big God is.
- If Christ is not raised, then everything we preach is useless, our faith is useless, the apostles are liars, and we are still guilty of our sins.
- If the only thing we do with the death and resurrection of Jesus is believe he will make our life on earth better, we are to be pitied. He didn't come to make our life better, he came to give us a new life entirely.
- Believing in Jesus doesn't give us better strategies for this life but gives us a new life that this life cannot deliver.
- Our brokenness is built into the bodies we live in, but in the resurrection, our bodies will be raised in glory beyond anything we could experience here.
- Jesus is the first of a whole harvest of new bodies that will be given to all who belong to him—bodies that have a strength that can't be taken away, a glory that can't be twisted, and a power of life within them that will never fail (1 Corinthians 15:20–22).
- Jesus takes the great weapon of the enemy—death—and turns it into the portal of blessing for his people.
- Because of our distractedness, we have a deeply inhibited moral imagination; God wants to give us something that we don't even have the capacity to understand yet.
- Because we don't have to live this life trying to make it better and because we understand we are built for something better, we are freed up to live for him—to work enthusiastically, not be discouraged by lack of progress, not worry about the things we can't control, and joyfully and confidently lean into the hope we know is coming.
- We will not view the resurrection through these lenses until we allow ourselves to reflect and feel the brokenness of ourselves and of this world.

Scripture References

[1 Corinthians 15](#)

[Psalms 8:6](#)

[1 Corinthians 15:50](#)

[1 Corinthians 15:58](#)