

We've been making our way through 1 Corinthians...church that's fighting against division

- Paul has been going line by line...paragraph by paragraph helping them process issues
Last few weeks we've been talking about the importance of resurrection living

- Today we tackle the idea of our New Body...If there is one place to go to define...here
Resurrected body is not defined by human limits, but by the transforming power of God
I think one of the most exciting and terrifying phrases is the same phrase 'What's Next'

- When I used to take my kids to theme parks / water parks...off a ride – What's Next
- But I had a 'What's Next' moment on Thursday – Tragedy – John – Charlie – Voddie
Most of us have stood by a graveside or walked a cemetery and thought...what happens
Sometimes our 'What's Next' is troubling and sometimes our 'What's Next' is exhilarating
Who else, other than God, can promise us a 'What's Next' that is both amazing and eternal?
If you are in Christ you are going to be given a new body that is both amazing and eternal!

Big Idea - Our temporal frailty will give way to eternal perfection

Can anyone feel their frailty? I like when I think I can do things I used to do...body laughs

- As my hips & knees sound like two different grits of sandpaper being rubbed together
Through Jesus Christ God is going to bring us into eternal perfection...sound good?

Today I'm going to give us three reminders of what the resurrection reminds us of...

1. The resurrection reminds us: What was buried will be raised in beauty (v35-42a)

- ³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ You foolish person! – Remember we're people didn't believe in a resurrection – Greek Influence
- People buying into pagan philosophies...calls out "You Fool!" – Funny – Evangelism

Then Paul gives three illustrations: Agricultural – Zoological – Astrological

What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.

Agricultural = Pull a seed from apple...plant it in the ground...seemingly dead...rises a plant

- Father is the farmer...we will go into the ground...rise vibrant and living! **Most Specific**
³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.
- It is natural to wonder, 'What kind of body will I have?' – This verse is your answer!
- The body He has chosen! **How sweet is it that the Heavenly Father has selected...**
³⁹ For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰ There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another.

Zoological – Think about how many different species there are on earth...amazing creativity

- The father is a creator and is creative...blows my mind...God made a **blobfish = Glory**
Just as there are so many varieties of life on earth...so will the variety in the new body
⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. ⁴² So is it with the resurrection of the dead.

Astrological – This is to show the wild difference between your earthly and heavenly body

- The Father is awesome and makes awesome things...think about everything in space
- Are you anything like a galaxy? No you're a human...but your new body = heavenly

With all these illustrations...Paul is trying to convince you of one thing

Your earthly body will be more amazing than anything you could dream of on earth

Because Christ rose, act like your beauty is not behind but ahead of you

All the beautification stuff in the world (men and women joke) – 26 billion plastic surgery

- What if your most beautiful years are ahead of you...not behind you
You were not your most beautiful in your 20's...you'll be most beautiful at the 2nd coming

2. The resurrection reminds us: What was broken will be repaired in full (v42b-44)

Paul is going to run a comparison between this body and spirit...broken...new one...glory

What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

- a. *Perishable (Corrupt)*: Physically our body will decay...what about spiritual corruption
- Spiritually: Our hearts are corrupted by sin. Our body and our spirit is perishing
- b. *Imperishable (Incorrupt)*: Imagine that? No more breakdown, no more decay.

No more Advil, ice packs, no more trips to the chiropractor...No more repentance

⁴³ **It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory.**

- a. *Dishonor (Shameful)*: Physically – death strips us of our dignity...resurrection restores
- Spiritually - **You ever felt ashamed? You ever done something that made you feel it?**
 - No shame in Heaven | **Imagine this...you won't know (Forget)...shame is gone**
- b. *Glory*: Death doesn't get the last word. Shame doesn't get the last word....Christ does
- Because Christ was raised, when you are raised in Him, shame will give way to glory
What was fragile & vulnerable will shine. What was shamed will be honored.

It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.

- a. *Weakness*: Our bodies are weak. **Spec of bacteria...a drop of the wrong chemical**
- Spiritually - Our wills are weak too—we struggle with sin, temptation, despair.
- Every day we wrestle with sin—Temptation lurks in the moments we least expect
- Despair can sneak in when our failures weigh us down – we're weak.
- b. *Power*: Can you imagine never being sick again? Never tired again? Tempted again?
- Resurrection = strength run out: spiritually strong, emotionally steady, physically whole.

Because Christ rose, believe that nothing broken in you is beyond God's repair

Think about all that is broken in the world...the hopelessness it brings...repaired perfectly

3. The resurrection reminds us: What was bound will be renewed in Christ (v45-49)

⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

Paul is back to talking about Federal Headship – Covered last week = Representative Figure

- Exchanged the perishable first Adam for the life-giving image of the second Christ
⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. – **This body is bound**
- Here's reality...this body is not ready for heaven...we need a body prepared for eternity
⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.

Complicated - The transformation from an earthly image to a heavenly image is guaranteed

⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. – This is the great swap | **Paperclip for a house = We traded dust for Heaven**

Past Reality: We have borne the image of the man of dust.

- We see this reality in the mirror every day: the aging, the sickness, the decay.
- Future Certainty (v. 49)**: We shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.
- This is not a possibility; it is a declaration of destiny for all who belong to Christ.

God's ultimate purpose is to conform us fully to the image of His Son

Bearing the image of the Man from Heaven means possessing a body perfectly suited for eternity—a body of glory, power, and immortality.

Because Christ rose, we must leave the old behind & start living as who we will be already...not yet of Christianity – But in the 'already' we should be living like Heaven

Are you living like the man of the dust or the man of Glory? Living like Heaven = Heaven

- At the beginning I said the most exciting and terrifying phrase is 'What's next?'
 - Because of what Christ has done for us...our 'What's next' is amazing...life like it