

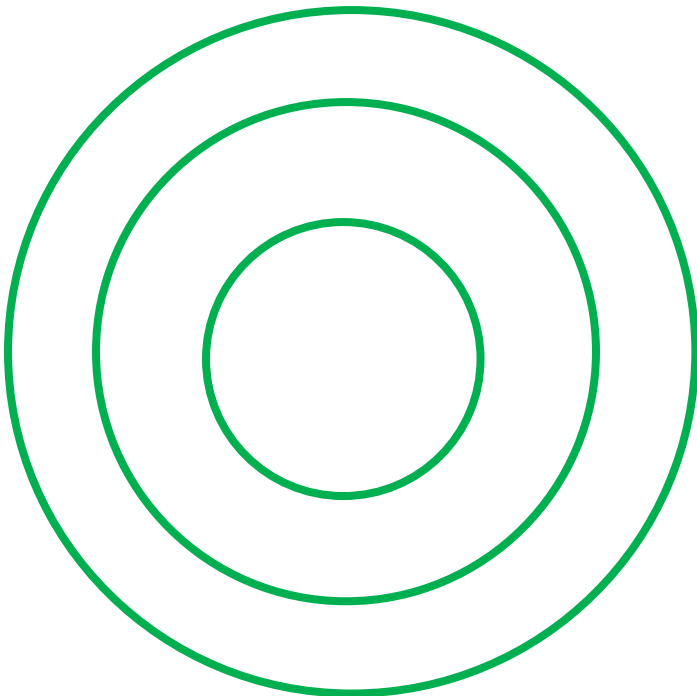


COMMUNITY  
CHURCH

Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

**August 22, 2021**

**1 Corinthians 15:1-34: The Resurrection is SO IMPORTANT!**



The three circles represent...

Core Beliefs:

Convictions:

Debatable Matters:

Paul tells us these three things are core beliefs...

Christ died

Christ was buried

Christ was raised on the third day

According to the Scriptures:

*But He was pierced for our transgressions,  
He was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on Him,  
and by His wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)*

*...because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,  
nor will you let your faithful one see decay. (Psalm 16:10)*

*If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your  
heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.  
(Romans 10:9)*

Verse 8-11: Paul’s testimony of God’s grace and his commitment to the Gospel!

What if we take resurrection out of the middle circle?

**1st Consequence:**

If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching and faith are “useless” – empty.

*And He said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”  
(Luke 9:22)*

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... (1 Peter 1:3)*

*“It would be useless to proclaim such a system, since it could save no one.” (Barnes Commentary)*

*Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the Gospel of God— the Gospel He promised beforehand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding His Son, who as to His earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by His resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 1:1-4)*

## **2nd Consequence:**

We would be found as “false witnesses” aka liars!

*“To bear false witness of a man, or to say that a man has done what he has not done, is regarded as a grievous crime. How much more so to bear false testimony of God!” (Barnes Commentary)*

*A false witness will not go unpunished,  
and whoever pours out lies will not go free. (Proverbs 19:5)*

## **3rd Consequence:**

Our faith is futile and are to be pitied.

Consequences Summed Up:

Without the resurrection our faith would be a lie.

What happens when you keep the resurrection as a Core Doctrine?

## **1st Blessing: The Gospel gives us life**

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)*

*“We have been given new life perfectly suited for fellowship and obedience to God forever.” (Wayne Grudem)*

## **2nd Blessing: Christ is Victorious**

*I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)*

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. (Revelation 21:4)*

## **3rd Blessing: Leads us to a Holy life**

*In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:11)*

## **HOME GROUP Questions for 1 Corinthians 15:1-34...**

1. How do the resurrection appearances of Jesus mentioned in vv. 5-8 provide even more evidence of the many and various eyewitness accounts of those who saw Jesus alive? For example, if Paul were simply making it up that Jesus appeared to more than 500 at one time, wouldn't it have been easy to discredit him? How does this then strengthen our faith in the truth of Christ's resurrection?
2. Why does Paul consider himself "the least of the apostles?" What made it so that this "least of the apostles" could have such a profound impact on the world with the Gospel of Jesus? How does this encourage you when you feel unworthy or not up to the task?
3. What is the main problem Paul is addressing in Chapter 15? (See v. 12) Apparently some of the Corinthians were denying that there will be a day when all people will be raised from the dead, as Scripture had always taught. What is Paul's counterargument to those who are denying this? If Christ has not been raised from the dead, where does that leave us?
4. Of course, Christ has been raised from the dead! What does Paul mean when he calls Him "the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep?" If Christ is the first of those to be raised, what does that mean for us? (See v. 22)
5. How does understanding death to be the ultimate enemy (see v. 26) help us to understand the significance of the resurrection of Jesus? How does it help us to understand the significance of the resurrection He has promised to us?
6. How does knowing that Jesus will one day subject all things except the Father to Himself help us to live our lives with greater meaning and purpose? How does knowing this help us avoid the foolishness of saying, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die?"