

What Will My Resurrected Body Be Like?

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Easter Sunday
Ukiah Bible Church
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Introduction

Today, we are celebrating in special way the life of Christ by remembering His resurrection. You do know that the resurrection of Jesus is one of the corner stone doctrines of Christianity. It is one of the none-negotiables as it is an essential part of the gospel. When Paul reduced the gospel down to it's key elements he laid it out this way to the church at Corinth, "*I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures*" (1 Cor. 15:3-4). The proof of a bodily resurrection according to Paul was that Jesus was seen after His death by Peter, the 12 disciples, more than 500 people and by Paul. The bodily resurrection of Christ was so critical to the gospel that Paul said, *if Jesus body wasn't raised from the dead our faith is worthless and we are still in our sins* (1 Cor. 15:17). One of the things this should prompt in us is a curiosity about a resurrected body, especially in light of the fact that because Jesus was raised from the dead we anticipate that we ourselves will be resurrected from the dead.

When you start talking about the resurrection and its connection to our bodies I have found people have a great interest. After all we love our bodies don't we? Think about it, one of the most important things to us in the experience of living is our bodies. The apostle Paul recognized this to be true and used our love for our own bodies to describe how a husband should love his wife, "*husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies...*" (Eph. 5:28). Let's consider a few fact that emphasize how much we humans are concerned about their bodies.

- Have you ever considered how much money we spend on our bodies
 - * Annually (2014), Americans spend 55 billion dollars on make-up¹

¹<http://www.cheatsheet.com/personal-finance/how-much-do-we-spend-on-beauty.html/?a=viewall>

- * Annually, Americans spent 16 billion dollars on plastic surgery²
- * Annually, Americans spend 40 to 50 billion on weight loss³
- * The annual revenue earned by gyms and health clubs last year in America was 24 billion⁴
- * In 2015 one report noted that Americans spent 68 billion on fine jewelry⁵
- * When it comes to clothing Forbes reports the apparel industry is a 12 billion dollar a year business
- When it comes to our bodies, they are amazingly resilient but extremely fragile
 - * One or two degrees up or down and we don't feel good
 - * A slight change in our hormones and we don't feel good
 - * Many of us live with pain on a daily bases and just accept it as apart of life
 - * A silly accident can break bones or leave one paralyzed
 - * One minute we feel great the next we can have a stroke
 - * Every 7 years our cells are changing and marks of aging show its self with every day that passes
- What's the real answer to the weakness of our bodies? It is a resurrected body.
 - * The Bible tells us that one day every believer in Christ will be given a resurrected body and most Christian would amen that but what I have discovered is that there are a lot of Christians who don't know what a resurrected body is really like and therefore they really don't have an idea of what to expect when they get their resurrected body. A very common thought for many is that their resurrection body will be ghost like but that not even close to what a resurrection body is like.
- Now when we think about a resurrected body we have to understand that it is absolutely necessary to have have one in order to enjoy everything that God has promised us connected with eternal life. You see heaven requires a heavenly body and this is what the resurrection of Jesus provides for us. The apostle Paul spoke of different types of bodies,

²<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2017/04/12/americans-spending-more-than-ever-plastic-surgery/100365258/>

³<https://www.quora.com/How-much-money-do-Americans-spend-on-fitness-products-each-year>

⁴<https://www.franchisehelp.com/industry-reports/fitness-industry-report/>

⁵http://edahngolan.com/2015_us_state_of_the_jewelry_market/

“All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish. There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another.” Each body is fit for a certain kind of environment and when it comes to heaven it requires a heavenly body and this fact begs the question, “what would a resurrected body be like?” If we are going to spend a literal eternity in that body I would like to know something about it, wouldn't you?

- So how do we find out what a resurrected body is like? There is only one way to discover this and that is to look to look at the only man that raised Himself from the dead, that man is Jesus Christ.
- Now the Bible tells in several passages that we are going to be like Jesus in His resurrected state. We will be like Him spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Let me give you four passages that make the point that we will be like the Lord Jesus in His resurrected state:
 - * 1 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 foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...”*
 - * 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 49 *“What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body...just as we have borne the image of man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.”*
 - * Phil. 3:21 *“Who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”*

Now if we are going to be like Jesus I want to spend sometime thinking about what He is like in His resurrected body to find out what we will be like in our resurrected bodies. So this morning if you are born-again, I am going to briefly show you from Scripture 4 qualities you will have in your resurrected body..

1. Your resurrected body will look different from the body you have now but you will be recognizable (John 21:1-7).

- a. In this passage we have the third appearance of Jesus to His disciples. On the other two occasions occurred just after His resurrection. The first one all of them were present but Thomas (John 20:19-25) and 8 days later the second one happened and Thomas was there (John 20:26-31).
- b. Now you would think that after seeing Jesus two times they would have recognized Him when they saw Him but that wasn't the case. And they weren't the only ones how didn't quite recognize Him. When the women went to the grave on that first Sunday and saw Jesus at first they didn't recognize Him. And the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-31) spent an afternoon with Him before they recognized Him.
- c. The question I have is this, "Why didn't people who knew Jesus before His death immediately recognize Him when they saw Him after His resurrection? I think the answer is found in the fact that the weight of the world had been lifted from Him and He was no longer a man of sorrows. You know as well as I do that living in a sin-filled-world leaves a mark on us. We all like to look at family pictures and in them you see the difference the decades make upon our bodies. I can give you a good illustration of from the movie "Hook". If you saw the move you will remember one scene where Robbin Williams who played Peter Pan was taken back to, Never, Never Land and the lost boys. Now these boys were lost because they never grew up but Peter grew up and left Never Never Land. He is back in Never Never Land because Hook kidnapped his children and Windy wants the Lost Boys to help Peter get the children back. The problem is that boys don't recognize Peter because He has grown up. And in this one scene a very little boy comes to Peter and pulls him down so he can look into his face. The little boy takes Peters glasses off and puts his hands on Peter's face and begins to move it all around. He stretches it one way and another until suddenly the looks at Peter as if he just found a treasure and he

says, “Oh there you are Peter!” And when that boy recognized Him all the other lost boys came over to Peter and moved his face around until they recognized Him. One of the other boys said “Peter you have grown up, you promised to never grow up.”

You see growing up changes us, because sin takes its toll on us. The nearer the crucifixion got the more it took a toll on His body. When the world's sin was placed upon Jesus and the wrath of God was poured out on Him it changed His looks.

- d. What I find fascinating and I think eye opening is what actually caused Jesus to be recognized. It wasn't His facial features it was other things, it was the wounds in His hands and side for Thomas, it was His voice for the women at the tomb, it was His reclining at a table and blessing the bread for the disciples on the road to Emmaus and it was His meeting a need for the disciples as they were fishing. I really like this because it emphasizes what Jesus said of Himself and His sheep, “*I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me...My Sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me*” (John 10:14, 27).
- e. It seems that what made Jesus recognizable in His resurrected body was His personhood not so much His facial features. And the same will be true of us in our resurrected bodies. It's not so much about what we look like its more about who we are in our character. And I take it that the more we reflect the character of Christ in this earthly body the more we will be recognizable in our heavenly body. Think about it like this. If a person gave their life to Christ but never grew in their faith and live much of their life in carnality when they do receive a resurrected body it is going to be really different than what people knew of that person on earth. But if a person grew in their faith and came to maturity in Christ when they are resurrected they are going to be more recognizable because they were living in the character of Christ. So in this sense we will be different but recognizable.

2. You will be able to enjoy food in your resurrected body (Luke 24:41-43)

- a. Now we have to ask ourselves what did Jesus eat something with these men? Was He hungry? The passage is not indicating it for hunger eat it was to prove to them He was not ghost. They were looking at a man who had just been crucified and put in a tomb. Now how do you mentally digest that? He wants these men to relax and see that He has a real body and what better way to prove it than to consume food.

- b. I think the ability to eat food in a resurrected body is a wonderful thing and I would like to tell you why. I find eating a meal with family and friends to be one of the most rewarding things in life. Think about how our most important holidays are centered around a meal. **There was one Thanksgiving in Nebraska were not home and we had no place to go. Connie and I decide to make the best of it and thought it would be no problem but on Thanksgiving we found our selves in a Supper Walmart and in the middle of the store Connie turns to me and says, "look at us, on Thanksgiving we are shopping at Walmart we are just couple of losers."** Eating meals with family and friends are important.
- c. You remember what Jesus told His disciple when He instituted the Communion Table, ***"I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God"*** (Luke 22:15-16). The Communion Table was established at the meal of the Passover that is interesting and Jesus promises that in the future He is going to eat in celebration of the Passover in Kingdom. Well, in order for Him to do that His resurrected body has to be able to consume food.
- d. One of the most important events in the future of the church is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb which will occur in heaven. In order to enjoy the supper we need heavenly bodies that can consume food. And if we can eat food we certainly will be able to enjoy the taste and flavors of what we are eating. Now this implies that a resurrected body has some sort of physical characteristics to it. And this make perfect sense from this standpoint. When we go into to eternity it will be a brand new place that God has created, it will be a real world and as such we will have new bodies that will be able to full enjoy that world. One of the great pleasures of experiencing life today and in the future is being able to use our senses. And in a resurrected body our physical senses will be free of the corruption of sin to enjoy every spiritual and physical thing God has created.

3. Your resurrected body will be an amazing body compared to the body you have now (1 Cor 15:35-49)

- a. You will note in this passage several things.

- i. V. 1 Paul is answering the question of what a resurrected body is like
 - ii. V. 39-40 There are different types of bodies and they all have a purpose
 - iii. V. 42-44 The resurrected body the opposite of a natural body
 - (1) perishable - imperishable
 - (2) dishonor - glorified dddf
 - iv. V. 50 You need a resurrected body to inherit the kingdom of God natural - spiritual
- b. Now as I said earlier many people think of the resurrected body as ghost like thing because it is called a spiritual body. But what meant by a spiritual body was that it was a body dominated by the Holy Spirit. It really had nothing to do with physical structure of the body. It has everything to do with what is influencing the resurrected body.
- c. So what would a resurrected body look like. It would be a body that was fully filled with all the wonderful aspects of the Holy Spirit, such as perfect, “*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control*” (Gal 5:22-23). Body like that is an assume body.
- d. Think how wonderful it would be to live in a place where everyone is dominated with these kinds of qualities being lived out in perfection. It would be heaven! You can see why it is impossible for a earthly body to go to heaven or eve enjoy it. IN earthly body is influenced by the old nature which is filled with, “*immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, and envying*... (Gal 5:19-21). A body would never be fit or like a place like heaven. In order to belong and enjoy heaven you have to have an imperishable, glorified, spiritual body.

4. Your resurrected body will not be constrained by time, matter, or space (Luke 24:31)

- a. We have serval passage that demonstrate how Jesus in His resurrected body could move from one place to another by going through walls and being lifted into the sky

(John 20:19-20; Acts 1:9). This was very different from His earthly body. In that body He couldn't do any of those things because a human body is constrained to time, gravity, and space.

- b. But in His resurrected body none of those things held Him back. Think what this means, life would be much more interesting our lives would be if time, gravity, and space were not holding us back. Time ages us, gravity makes everything sag on us, and space confines us. If we had bodies that were not constrained by these things think about how much more freedom we could experience and the more freedom the enjoyment. A resurrected body frees us to experience life to a new height.

Conclusion

What a great life a resurrected body affords us.

The resurrection of the believer and the resurrection of the unbeliever are very different.