DEFENDING THE FAITH

A Series on Christian Apologetics

WEEK 4

Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead?

Four facts. Rival stories. A living hope.

Dr. Jonathan & Donna Vorce

Lakewood Family Church · Hudson, Florida

Sunday 10 AM · 12637 Pony Lane

The resurrection is not a church slogan.

It is the wall that holds the house up.

1 PETER 3:15

"Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

1 CORINTHIANS 15:14, 17

If Christ is not risen, preaching is empty, faith is empty, and we are still in our sins.

TODAY

01 Four facts that will not leave the room

02 Other stories—and why they buckle

03 A date in history and a hope you can lean on

04 What a living Christ does to Monday morning and to the grave

I. FOUR FACTS THAT WILL NOT LEAVE THE ROOM

Start with the scene. These four will not leave the table.

01 Jesus was really dead

Crucifixion was Rome's way of making sure a man did not walk home. Pilate would not release the body until he was satisfied (Mark 15:44–45).

02 The tomb was empty

The women found the stone rolled away. The priests paid the guards to explain it. An occupied grave would have ended Christianity in a week.

03 People said they saw Him

Cephas, the twelve, more than five hundred at once, James, the apostles, and Paul. Most were still living when Paul wrote (1 Cor. 15:5–8).

04 The disciples changed

On Friday they ran. Weeks later they preached in the city that killed Jesus. Cowards do not invent a hoax and then die for it.

THE WITNESSES SPEAK

ACTS 2:32

“This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.”

MATTHEW 28:6

“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.”

1 CORINTHIANS 15:5–8

Seen of Cephas, then of the twelve, then of above five hundred brethren at once… last of all he was seen of me also.

II. THE OTHER STORIES—AND WHY THEY FALL APART

Honest questions deserve honest answers. None of these can carry all four facts.

01 "The disciples stole the body"

Oldest counter-story—and paid for (Matt. 28:12–15). Stolen bones do not sit down and eat. Cowards do not die for a hoax they invented.

02 "He was not really dead"

A flogged, crucified man does not roll a sealed stone and look like the Lord of life. The Romans were professionals at killing.

03 "They only thought they saw Him"

Grief can trick one lonely heart. It does not trick five hundred people, a skeptical brother, and an enemy named Paul. A vision leaves a body in the grave.

04 "Wrong tomb" / "Later legend"

Women, Joseph, guards, and priests all knew the place. This story was shouted first where it could most easily have been disproved.

“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.”

— 1 Corinthians 15:20

01

It happened then

Paul stakes everything on a public event. Peter preached it in the same city that watched Jesus die.

02

It matters now

The angel did not say, “He lives on in your hearts.” He said, “Come, see the place where the Lord lay.” Hope tied only to a feeling dies when the feeling dies.

03

Facts & People

A marriage certificate has a date and a seal. You marry the person in the kitchen. Christianity gives both: a fact you can point to and a Savior you can talk to.

If this is only an argument, we have failed. He is Lord over guilt, graves, and ordinary days.

01

Our Guilt

1 Corinthians 15:17

The Cross without the resurrection is a tragic ending. The empty tomb says the payment was accepted.

02

Our Graves

1 Corinthians 15:20

Jesus is the firstfruits. Every Christian grave in Pasco County is temporary if Christ is risen.

03

Ordinary Days

Matthew 28:8

The women ran “with fear and great joy.” Monday is not meaningless.

THE QUESTION LEFT ON THE TABLE

Not only “Did it happen?”

What will you do with the One who walked out?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3–4

“Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”

To trust Him is to confess what Peter preached: God has made this Jesus both Lord and Christ.

01

Come.

02

Believe.

03

Speak to
a prayer partner.

04

Accept Jesus Christ as
Your Lord and Saviour.

YOU ARE WELCOME BACK

Come walk with us this week.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Bible Study & Youth

7:00 PM

Bring a question. Bring a friend.

NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday Worship

9 & 11 AM

Childcare provided in the service

NEXT WEEK · WEEK 5

How Can a Good God Allow Suffering?

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