

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"DEATH DECLAWED" | 1 COR 15: 35-49 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What's the most interesting way to say someone died (like kick the bucket)?

"The Pattern of Resurrection" 1 Corinthians 15: 35-41

Some people struggle with resurrection because they don't know how a body is raised and what kind of body it will be. Verse 38 says "But God gives it a body as he has chosen". **What does that show about God? What does that mean for His people?**

"The Perfection of the Resurrection" 1 Corinthians 15: 42-49

A believer's new resurrected body will be superior because it will have a distinct glory God planned for the new heaven and earth that will last forever. **How does gaining a new body impact a believer's view on death?**

Humans were created in God's image, but our sin distorts that image. Christ followers will bear the image of Jesus in the new heaven and earth. **In what ways is God remaking His people into Jesus' image already?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Death impacts everyone and all must choose a way to process it. Jesus' promise and example of rising from the dead with a new, glorified body, is a source of hope for all His followers. **In what ways is it hard for you to trust God with the details of what happens after death? How are you allowing God to remake you into being more like Jesus? Pray and ask God to give you faith to trust His plan and take away your fears.**

Death Declawed

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Welcome: those **online**, and in the *Fellowship Hall*.
- B. Fit out Catalogue Update: We've raised \$ TY for considering the next generation at CM, by purchasing something out of the catalogue (online, on App, in back).
- C. This Wed Night: VBS Highlights in the Sanctuary.
- D. Men FYI: CCCM is hosting a **Men's Retreat** up at Twin Peaks in July 19-21.
- E. Prayer: Father, we know that *Your Son Jesus* got the tree of death, so we could get the tree of life.

II. Slide2 Intro: Death Declawed

- A. I learned that instead of *declawing your cat* they now make *protective nail caps* that you can **glue on**, so they don't claw your furniture—or you.
 1. **But** it really doesn't *solve the problem* as when the nail grows it slowly *pushes it off*, and you have to start over again.
 2. I think we treat **death** the same way. We try to apply *protective caps around our hearts*.
 3. Most people don't like to think nor talk about **death**, so they call it other things, Like: *kicking the bucket, bite the dust, pushing up daisies, croak, buy the Farm, or to cash in one's chips* (like, your earthly poker game is over?)
 4. Some we want to **delay** it at all cost. Or just **dismiss** it like many atheists who believe that you *just become plant food*.
- B. How hopeless the *Greeks* were when they thought about **death**.
 1. Inscriptions on tombs in ancient Greece and Rome indicate that **death was their greatest enemy**, that they saw **no hope** beyond the grave!
 - a) This morn do you have *a philosophy of life* that will cope with your death?
 - b) **Jesus** is the only one that holds *power over death*. **Jesus 'Declawed Death'**, He didn't try just to *put a temporary protection* over it.

(1) *In Christ* we have both **life** and **hope**, even *beyond the grave*.

C. In ch.15 Paul has gone to great lengths to **prove** *the resurrection of the body of the Corinthian believers*, by proving 1st, *the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead*.

1. We sang on Wed night, *The Resurrected King Is Resurrecting me*.
2. The resurrection of **Jesus** was *only the beginning* of a Great Harvest.

III. Slide3 **THE PATTERN OF THE RESURRECTION (35-41)** *READ* #2 *Perfection*

A. The Difference between the Earthly and Heavenly Bodies

B. **You foolish person!** - biblical *foolishness* is not always *intellectual deficiency*, but *someone who has not taken God into account*.

1. Eg. Ps.14 *The fool says in his heart, There is no God*.
2. And Jesus when talking to the Sadducees said, *You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God*. Mt.22:29
3. The Corinthian believers *were not taking **God** into the res account*.

C. **You and I still have many questions regarding our new bodies**. Will babies have infant bodies or mature bodies? What about bodies that have died violent deaths, how will they be resurrected? What about those who have been cremated, and their ashes spread, how will God raise them up? (dust or ashes, He will!)

D. Slide4a **2 QUESTIONS (35-41) How? and What?** [*How* is answered in (36). *What* is answered in (37-49)]

1. **HOW?** (36)
2. If you think resurrection is crazy, **what do you think happens when you place a seed in the ground?** Your **body** is just a **kernel/seed** now.
3. You can't have a **plant** unless you have a **seed**, and **seeds** have to **die** first. Every time a seed sprouts life, *nature testifies* to the fact that *life can come from death*.
4. **WHAT?** (37-41)

5. **Slide4b Our Resurrection is Definite** – (37,38) **a seed** - the seed represents the life it will grow (eg. plant corn get corn; plant Brian get Brian)
- Our heavenly body will be *a continuation of* our earthly body.
 - Resurrection is *not* Reconstruction. God *doesn't* reassemble the original body that has turned to dust. The body is planted & blooms forth a beautiful flower.
 - I came up w/my *epitaph* for my gravestone: *Slide4c Plant me in the earth, but tis only for a spell, for soon to bloom forth, is the new Brian Bell.*
 - D.L.Moody when walking in a cemetery, *I like to think of the time when the dead shall rise from their graves. Thank God our friends are not buried, they are only sown.*
6. **Slide4d,e Our Resurrection is Distinct** (not all flesh is the same, sarx/flesh) (39) – In creation God marked each species w/a unique distinction.
- We too will be able to be identified, just as the disciples were able to recognize **Jesus** in His *res body*.
(1) We'll be able to recognize and identify our loved ones also.
 - So with our new bodies, there is a discontinuity **and** a continuity. **We will still be us.** *We will be changed, but not destroyed, and not reincarnated into something else.*
7. **Slide4f Our Resurrection is in Degree** (solar system) (40,41) – **as** no 2 stars shine w/the same brightness, **so** each of us will have **a glory** all our own.

IV. **Slide5a THE PERFECTION OF THE RESURRECTION (42-49)**

A. **The New Body is Superior to the Old** (42-44) *READ 4 contrasts:*

- Our bodies are **sown** as **perishable**; our future body is **raised** imperishable.
- Our bodies are **sown** in **dishonor**; our future body is **raised** in **glory**.
- Our bodies are **sown** in **weakness**; our future body is **raised** in **power**.
- Our bodies are **sown** a **nat body**; our future body is **raised** a **spiritual body**.

- a) We need a **new body** because this one is **not suitable for glory**. These eyes as incredible as they are, will be going 4K (or 8K, 16K like the Sphere in Vegas *world's first 16k resolution LED screen*). We thought 1080p was good.
- b) **Slide5b Andrew Wilson**, *My future body is to my current body what an **oak tree** is to an **acorn**. Identifiably the same **but greater** to an unimaginable degree. I mean, unimaginable quite literally. There's no way you can look at an **acorn** and imagine what an **oak tree** was like, **unless** you have **previously seen one**. And it will be the same with the resurrection.*

B. **Slide6a FIRST & LAST ADAM** (45-49) **READ**

C. **Slide6b** C.S.Lewis, *Christ has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of the first man. He has **met, fought, and beaten** the king of death. Everything is different because he has done so. This is the beginning of the new creation, a new chapter in cosmic history has opened.* (we are in the new chapter)

D. **Slide7a** We have been made in the image of **Adam**, and in the image of **God**.

1. **Adam** gave **natural life** to the entire human race; **Jesus** gave **spiritual life** to all who believe.
2. Bearing **Adam's image** we are destined to **die**; Bearing **Jesus' image** we are destined to **live forever**.
 - a) Our status of **image bearers** is unique. We're God's **only image-bearers**. **Wow!**
3. What is it to **bear the image of the man of heaven?** *Imago dei*
 - a) Being a **sinner** does not mean we have ceased to be in *the image of God*. We are **created in** God's image and, yes, we **stay in** God's image.
 - (1) **Slide7b** Yet when we sin we **deface** or **distort** this image, it needs some kind of **repair, restoration, or renewal**. Paul describes this in Col.3:10 saying, *we have put on the new self, which is being **renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator**.*
 - (2) So Paul's mindset is, we are **in the image of God** but how **corrupt and fallen and sinful and defaced this image is**, **now** with our putting

on Christ, this now becomes a process of shaping us, remaking us into *a clearer image* of our Creator. [**mirror analogy: getting layers of smears and dirt on it, then you start cleaning it*]

b) *And 1 day* we will bear the *perfect image* of the man of heaven. We will resemble Christ in His glorified spiritual body **and** His character.

*Slide7c John 3:2 Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as **he really is**.*

E. **Wrap Up:** We view **death** positively and confidently, because we have the scriptures, and our God never lies.

1. It doesn't mean we don't grieve those close to us that die. **But** we don't grieve *hopelessly*. We grieve as Christians with **Hope**.

F. Christianity has a **linear view**—we are going *somewhere*.

1. When believers die we immediately go to be *with Jesus*. Where we wait the day when He will *Come Again* and give us resurrected bodies, and we will live forever with the saints, and our triune God, in new heavens and a new earth. ***And** that vision for the **Future** gives us **Hope** for the **Present**.

G. **Recap:** You see the man of heaven took on the body of dust, in order for people who are made of dust, may become people with *a heavenly body*.

1. **He** became like a grain of wheat buried in the ground, **but** was *raised to life* to bear much fruit.
2. **The imperishable Jesus** became perishable, so that the perishable could become imperishable.
3. **The honored one** became dishonored, **so that** the dishonored could be honored.
4. **The powerful one** became weak, **so that** the weak could become powerful.

5. The eternal one experience death, so that the dying could have inherit eternal life.
 6. The man of Heaven became the man of earth, so that the sons of Adam may become men and women of heaven.
 - a) If you belong to *Jesus*, your future is sure!
- H. Theresa of Avila (nun from Spain/1500's) said, *"In light of heaven, the worst suffering on earth will seem to be like one night in an inconvenient hotel."*
- I. Pray: Lord, we are not suffering from anything a good resurrection can't fix! What we sing and know as believers is, *The Resurrected King Is Resurrecting me/us.*
- J. * Sanctuary Chair Stacking (3rd Service Only)
- K. Keywords: resurrection, hope, death.