

# 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!***

**"V DAY" | 1 COR 15: 50-58 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL**

## **WARM-UP QUESTION:**

**Would you trust anyone to give you a makeover? Why or why not?**

## ***"We Shall All be Changed" 1 Corinthians 15: 50-53***

Believers are encouraged to look forward to the change they will go through when they or when Jesus comes again because their mortal bodies will be made into new immortal bodies. **Why do many people have mixed feelings about being immortal? How does God's plan for transformation affect your view of transformation?**

## ***"Victory Promised" 1 Corinthians 15: 54-57***

Jesus' death and resurrection removes the power of sin and death, like a stinger being removed from a bee. **What does that show about God? What does that mean for His people?**

## ***"In the Lord your Labor is not in Vain" 1 Corinthians 15: 58***

Believers are encouraged to abound in the work of the Lord as they hold on tight to the belief in Jesus' victory. **How can Jesus' victory over sin and death motivate believers to work hard for Him?**

## **REFLECTION QUESTION:**

Death has lost its ability to scare someone who believes in Jesus' victory over sin. This enables them to look forward to the new immortal life God will give them and to work hard in service to God. **Do you look forward to the new creation and new body you will have with Jesus in eternity? How can you "abound in the work of the Lord" this week? Pray and thank God for the victory you get to be part of because of Jesus.**

## V DAY

## I. Announce:

- A. **Welcome:** those online & in Fellowship Hall.
- B. **Slide1 Youth Camp Sponsorships:** Camp is right around the corner and our 678 & RISE ministries are really excited to be heading to *Camp Cedar Crest* July 28-Aug. 1st. If anyone remembers their 1st camp experience you know that some core memories and moments with God are made there. We want students to experience the AWE of God with us this summer. We could use some help sponsoring 10-15 young people to make it to camp this year, you can donate to the *Camp Sponsorship selection* on the church App or Website, or drop it in the offering box with a note. *Thank you for your investment in the youth here at Calvary.*
- C. **Slide2 CMCS Employment Opportunities:** *Calvary Murrieta Christian School* is hiring for the upcoming year. We have several positions from preschool through 8th grade. Please check out our website at [cmcsweb.com](http://cmcsweb.com) to view the open positions.
1. **Also** school starts August 15th and enrollment is open. Our preschool starts at age 2 years 8 months, and we are enrolling through 8th grade. Schedule a tour today to take a look at our campus and learn more about our programs. We can't wait to show you our **amazing campus** and what CMCS can offer your child.
- D. **Wed Night:** **New series** (Jason kicked off last Wed, *Loving Others thru Fellowship*) I will do *Loving others thru Conflict*.
- E. **Prayer:**

## II. Slide3 Intro: V DAY

- A. As I said a few weeks ago, when it comes to our new bodies—there will be **continuity** and **discontinuity** between this life and the next. **Recognizable** and yet **changed**.

## III. Slide4a WE SHALL ALL BE CHANGED (50-53) READ

A. (50) Our present mortal nature is not fit for eternity.

1. Slide4b Like caterpillars who can't fly *until* they've been transformed; So we will never fly away/see heaven, *unless* our bodies are changed.
2. Like an astronaut doesn't just wear *jeans, a tee shirt, and a pair of doc martens*, they have to *be properly dressed* to exist in that atmosphere.
3. Like some restaurants have a dress code to wear a tie or sport coat, so does heaven ...

a) Mt.22 tells of *the parable of the Wedding Feast*. It starts w/*the Kingdom of Heaven is like* ... (after a lot of folks who were invited multiple x's, wouldn't come) the invitation went out to all in the city good/bad. But when the king came into see his guests, 1 man didn't have on the right garment and he got thrown out. (I guess: no shirt, no shoes, no service). [key: garments = salvation]

b) Note to self: be sure not to wear your *self-righteousness*, let Jesus provide the garment of His righteousness. Is.61:10 *I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

B. (51) There will be a generation that does not die.

1. They will not go into the shadow of the valley of death. They will not taste the darkness of death. But they will also be changed.

C. Slide5a We shall not all sleep - what a beautiful phrase, when a believer dies they sleep in Jesus. Vs.18 *fallen asleep in Christ*.

1. When Jesus was summoned to come and heal Jarius' daughter. Jesus said to the crowd, *she's just sleeping* (they laugh), Then it says, *but taking her by the hand he called, saying, (Talitha Cumi) "Child, arise."* Luke 8:54
2. Jesus wants every believer to view death that way, just like a mother would wake up one of her children. Don't picture floating away somewhere. Instead, picture Jesus taking you by the hand!

D. (51) Paul mentioned earlier that those things that die experience change and transformation.

1. It's a mystery because those who are alive when **Jesus returns** will not experience death, **but** will still experience **transformation** into a **glorious state**.

E. (52) **In a moment** (sense: a span of time so short that it is no longer divisible into a smaller unit), **in the twinkling of an eye** (flit/blink, a sudden quick movement) -

F. **Slide5b** (52) **The last trumpet** (the same as the one in 1 Thes.4:16,17 *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, & so we will always be with the Lord.*

1. This trumpet signals **the day of redemption**, when God brings to completion the salvation of His people (uniting them fully with Him).

G. (53) **Our mortal body must put on immortality** - *Christ reverses the condition of mortality* and grants to people the **immortality God created them to enjoy**.

#### IV. **Slide6a VICTORY PROMISED (54-57) READ**

A. (54) **Death is swallowed up in victory** - *or death swallowed by triumphant life!* msg

1. **Death that swallowed up, will now be swallowed up!**

a) **No more Death** but **Life Forevermore**. **No more Sorrow** but **Joy**.

**No more Crying** but **Laughter**. **No more Pain** but **Pleasure**. Rev.21:4

B. (55) **O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?** (Paul mocks death)

1. **Death's stinger is removed**. It's like a **bee** which has already stung someone (**Jesus**), and now it is left harmless—to ever sting again.

a) **Death is no longer our enemy than Christian; but an instrument of freedom from the reign of sin in our body!**

b) **Death then becomes like a friend who leads me to a curtain which is drawn aside, which has been hiding the full Glory of the Savior from my eyes. Death is like the doors at the back of a wedding chapel, which**

are the only thing that stands between the bride and her Groom. Once they are flung open, they both behold each other in all their Spender.

2. But, there is still death all around us? - There is a difference between **the already** and **the not yet Victory**.
  - a) Slide6b Jesus defeated death at His resurrection, but we await His **Second Coming** when He will defeat it *ultimately and permanently*.
3. A common analogy between **the already** and **the not yet Victory**, was in **WWII**, in the distinction between **D-Day** and **V Day**. (Aka **VE Day**, May 8, 1945)
4. **D-Day** was when the allies won the battle in Normandy, June 6th, 1944. They dealt that fatal blow to Nazi Germany that rendered its defeat inevitable. But it took *another year* for Germany to surrender ... **V Day**.
5. **D-Day** for the Christian happened at the tomb when Jesus rose from the dead. But we are awaiting **V Day**, when Jesus comes and establishes His **Kingdom forever**. You and I stand in-between **D-Day** and **V day**.

C. This **Victory** ahead is for Christians. **Death** is no friend to the unbeliever, it is an enemy! - **Death** becomes, **not a curtain** separating a bride & groom, but instead it is like a **1-way prison door**, that opens only once for the prisoner. It need not be so!

1. *Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.*

## V. Slide7 **IN THE LORD YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN (58) READ**

- A. If you really believe in the Res and the Return of Jesus, vs.58 will characterize your life. *The best is yet to come!*
- B. **Therefore** (*everything* in ch.15 thus far). **Knowing** (like a child knows that if they jump off the side of the pool, the parent **will** catch them). [knowing/trusting]
- C. Slide8a **Be 3 things**:
  1. **Be Steadfast** - in the truth God will raise the believer's body.
  2. **Immovable** - don't be *moved away from* the belief that there is a bodily res. Paul puts these 2 together in Col.1:23.

a) **Slide8b** Col.1:23 *if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, **not shifting** (immovable) from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven.*

3. **Always abounding in the work of the Lord - What work?** Min or Max? **I think** Paul is referring to both, and everything in-between. (Min above, the Gospel - Max below)

a) **Slide8c** Col.3:17 *whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

(1) That could be hammering a nail, changing a diaper, loading the dishwasher, painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, or loving your neighbor as yourself.

4. **Slide8d** Luke 14:13,14 *But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.*

D.N. T. Wright said in, *The Resurrection of the Son of God, on the passage.*

*“Every act of love, gratitude and kindness; every work of art or music inspired by the love of God and delight in the beauty of his creation; every minute spent teaching a severely handicapped child to read or to walk; every act of care and nurture, of comfort and support, for one’s fellow human beings, and for that matter one’s fellow non-human creatures; and of course every prayer, all Spirit-led teaching, every deed which spreads the gospel, builds up the church, embraces and embodies holiness rather than corruption, and makes the name of Jesus honored in the world—all of this will find its way, through the resurrecting power of God, **into the new creation which God will one day make.** That is the logic of the mission of God. God’s recreation of his wonderful world, which has begun with the resurrection of Jesus and continues mysteriously as God’s people live in the risen Christ and in the power of his Spirit, means that what we do **in Christ and by the Spirit in the present is not wasted.**”*

E. Your work/labor may go *unnoticed* by **others**, **but never** by **the Lord**. **Our motivation is—Jesus is worth it!**

F. **Communion:**

G. Keywords: death, work, second coming.