

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!***

"NO BONES ABOUT IT" | 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 14-20 | PASTOR BRIAN

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is your favorite Easter tradition or memory?

"The Resurrection is the Plot Line of the Entire Bible" - (Job 19: 25-27)

In Job 19: 25-27 we see a man who believes he will see God "in the flesh" meaning he will be in a new body in the afterlife, not just a spirit or an angel. How does the idea of having a new body impact people when they think of heaven?

"The Difference in Christ's Resurrection" - (Luke 24: 39)

The Bible claims that Jesus' tomb was empty and over 500 people saw Jesus resurrected like in this passage. What other evidence or experiences help Christ-followers believe in Jesus' resurrection?

"Give the Resurrection its Rightful Place" - (Romans 10:9)

Romans 10:9 shows Jesus' resurrection is the ultimate proof of Jesus being Lord and Savior of the world. If that resurrection event is so important, how should Christ-followers honor and remember it?

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Pastor Brian concluded his message with looking at Rev. 3:20 and the idea of Christ coming into our hearts. But there's different attitudes we can have when we respond to Jesus. Have you just opened the door to Jesus or has Jesus been able to make your heart His home? Have you talked to Jesus lately about how at home He is in your life?

No Bones About It

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-7 Lar: Marriage. Outreach. Prayer. REAL. Good Fri. Easter. New Times.
- B. Slide8 Schopenhauer the German Philosopher said that, *life is an endless pain with a painful end, and that life is a tragicomedy played over and over again with only slight changes in costume and scenery.* (his work was described as *philosophical pessimism*)
1. Paul wrote *if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.* 1 Cor.15:14 But then he said in vs.20, *But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead.*
 2. Caesar couldn't command the dead to life, and the Jews couldn't put Life to death, as hard as they tried.

C. Prayer:

II. Slide9 Intro: No Bones About It

- A. Tombs are constructed for various reasons & designed in different shapes & sizes.
1. Slide10a Some tombs are magnificent mausoleums. like the Taj Mahal where the Shah Jahan commissioned it for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal [died during the birth of their 14th child. *Incredible love story*].
 - a) I've visited: George Washington's Tomb in Mount Vernon. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. Mao Zedong's Mausoleum in Tiananmen Square. I've seen Lenin's Mausoleum in Moscow's Red Square. Chiang Kai-Shek's Memorial Hall in Taipei. I've seen 140 Popes buried in St. Peter's Basilica. And have been in the Catacombs of Rome.
 2. All these tombs are visited by millions of people because their skeletal remains are still in these graves. Whether *crypts, mausoleums, sarcophagi, ossuaries, caskets or graves*, the one thing they all have in Slide10b common is ... *they all have bones in them!*

3. Slide11 I've also visited the Tomb *believed to be Christ's* in Jerusalem. Where of course there are **no bones** (I went back & checked 16 x's ... *still no bones*).

B. The uniqueness of the Christian faith is that it is built on the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ - **no bones about it!** [idiom refers to *accepting something without objection*]

III. Slide12a THE RESURRECTION IS THE PLOT LINE OF THE ENTIRE BIBLE

A. Starting way back in Genesis 22 w/Abraham being willing to slay his son Isaac if need be. **But** in Heb.11:17-19 Abraham had belief in **Resurrection**.

1. Slide12b *By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18 of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.*

B. Slide12c Then there is a very famous passage in **Job**. *I know that my Redeemer lives and that in the end he will stand on the earth, that **after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God. I myself will see him with my own eyes, I and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*** Job 19:25–27.

1. If you take that at face value, it is pretty dramatic. After his skin has been destroyed, he has rotted in the grave, yet **"in my flesh I will see God."**
2. Not just, "I will see God, perhaps in some **spirit-to-spirit fashion,**" what is later called the intermediate state, but, **"in my flesh I will see God," which presupposes that the flesh has come back to life.** "I myself will see him with my own eyes. I, and not another." That is a personal resurrection with a personal resurrection **body**.

IV. Slide13a THE DIFFERENCE IN CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

A. *N.T. Wright*. Resurrection is *"life after life after death"*.

1. Resurrection is when someone dies **and then,** *after life - after death - comes back to their resurrected body - in this life - once again.*

2. Resurrection is not borrowed from any *pagan religious belief* of a *dying and rising God* (there is much of that in world-religions).
3. The resurrection of Christ was **all together original** in manner & form.
4. **Combining an empty tomb, 500+ eyewitnesses, and a living Jesus necessitates such a conclusion.**

B. *Dr. Carson*. It is **not** living forever in a spirit existence, **but** living again **in bodily mode** after the body has died, coming back from the dead in *real bodies*, **but**, ultimately, in *transformed bodies*.

1. **It is not** just a *spiritual* existence beyond death. **It is not** just coming back to life (like Lazarus & 8 others, who had to *die again*).
2. **So** there was **no prototype** leading up to Jesus, **because** when Jesus comes back from the dead, His resurrection, though it ties his resurrection body with his pre-death body, **nevertheless**, his resurrection is **unique** in all resurrections up to that point in that **his body has been transformed**. There is a connection between his old body, that is, his pre-death body, and his resurrection body in that the marks (stigmata) of the wounds are still there.
3. *Slide13b Lk.24:39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.*

V. *Slide14a* **GIVE THE RESURRECTION ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE**

A. The first step of the resurrection is that *It Really Happened*.

1. **It wasn't any easier to believe back then.** (Romans didn't bel. Jews only did in the end)
2. And **believing the bare fact** doesn't make it *a living Hope* for us.
3. **It isn't just that it happened** **but** what it means.
4. It is not just a **symbol**, *that good will triumph over evil*. It doesn't just symbolize that *winter is over and spring has sprung*.
5. It is not just knowing about the resurrection, **but** knowing the **power** of His resurrection. **Know it personally**, know it **experientially**.

6. It is not just that **He's alive**, **but** the difference it makes for **what you're facing**. Life is worth living, just because He lives.

B. Slide14b We need to get the resurrection its rightful place.

1. We give so much more attention to *His death on the cross* than on His resurrection. **Charles Hodge**, the Princeton theologian, in his famous **systematic theology** spends 127 pages on the cross of Christ and only 4 on His resurrection.

a) We as the church often *share on it once a year* then stick it back in the drawer because we're not sure what to do with it.

2. **But Brian it's the cross that saves us!** Yes almost. Listen to Rom.4:24,25 Slide14c *It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.* [Justification is *God's righteous act* of removing the *condemnation, guilt, and penalty* of sin, by grace, while, at the same time, declaring the ungodly to be righteous, thru faith in Christ's atoning sacrifice]

a) Slide14d God raised Jesus from the dead to **validate** our forgiveness. **And** to **vindicate** His Sons righteousness. **&** to **celebrate** the work of justification. *Piper*

3. **Oh you want another?** Rom.10 *if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

4. Oh and remember it is the **key theme** in **Acts** in the early church [Peter's 1st message **& result**, 3000 souls saved] **And** it became the Clarion Cry of all apostolic preaching.

5. So, we can't let the resurrection be *or sound like* an **afterthought**.

6. The resurrection, *the great reversal*, brings us both the **power** and the **pattern** for *living life*, now connected to God as His new creation.

VI. Slide15a **WE DON'T FOLLOW A DEAD TEACHER BUT A LIVING LORD**

A. A living Lord that so desires sweet fellowship with you.

- B. **Slide15b** Rev.3:20 is often read for unbelievers, *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.* **Context:** this is written to believers, a church (Laodicea).
1. Eating equals fellowship, was designed for *rich intimate communion* with **Him**. For **knowing Him** and **His love**, which is *generally untapped*.
- C. **Slide15c** This **knocking** describes a request for *a renewal of fellowship*. In Song 5:2 the Shulamite talking about her groom, *I sleep, but my heart is awake; It is the voice of my beloved! He knocks, saying, Open for me, my sister, my love, My dove, my perfect one; For my head is covered with dew, My locks w/the drops of the night.*
1. In their self-sufficiency, the church in **Laodicea** had **locked Christ out**. He wants them to *repent* and, ultimately, **take part in the coming messianic banquet**.
- D. **Hear and Open. - I'll Come and Dine.**
1. He **knocks** through *circumstances*. He **calls** thru His Word for *Fellowship & Communion*.
 2. Even today, He will not *kick the door down* for fellowship though He could. He gently knocks, & keeps knocking.
 - a) He won't *huff & puff* and blow your door down.
 - b) **Open up, choose to come out of seclusion**. It doesn't matter what you've done, **or** how far you've fallen, how long you've been lukewarm. [**Love can go no further than that**]
 3. **Paul McCartney & Wings** sang something similar back in 1976, *Someone's knocking at he door. Somebodies ringing the bell. Do me a favor and open the door and let me in.*
- E. **Slide15d** I will come **in** to him - He **enters** the believers heart & makes it his **home**.
1. Some people let you in their house, others make it feel like it's your own home. (eg. grandma's house)
 2. Have you just let Jesus **in**, **or** has He been able to **make it His home**?

F. I will dine with him - Have some good spiritual food & fellowship.

G. The Greeks had 3 meals in the day:

1. ακριτισμα (akritisma) - Breakfast, bread dipped in wine.
2. ἀριστάω (aristao) - Picnic snack on the go.
3. Slide15e δειπνέω (deipneo) - (used here) the evening meal, where people *lingered & sat long, & talked over it.*

H. And he with Me - If we open our heart's to Him, He'll open His home to us.

1. Enjoy the pleasure of His company.

I. End: Christianity answers *the questions of the mind and the longing of the heart.*
Jesus is the one you've been looking for! *Timothy Keller*

J. Slide16 In the great *Corinthian Controversy* (ch.15) The issue wasn't a problem with Jesus rising from the dead but their own resurrection that Paul was speaking to.
Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead (for yourselves)? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

1. We as the redeemed of the Lord also will taste of *Christ's resurrection.*
 Not merely a *spiritual resurrection*, no, we shall participate in a *physical resurrection*. Our mortal bodies will be dressed in immortality, and we shall be just like Him - **no bones about it!**

K. Slide17 Let's invite Romulo & team back to the stage.

L. **Keywords:** Resurrection, bones, no bones about it, life, death.