

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!**

"THE DEATH OF DEATH" | 1 COR 15: 12-34 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

When were you first aware of the pain of death?

"Hypothetical" 1 Corinthians 15: 12-19

Some people were denying the resurrection of Jesus, which means the gospel and its preachers are lying and the people who follow Christianity are fools to be pitied. **What does it mean that the resurrection of Jesus is central to the gospel?**

"Factual" 1 Corinthians 15: 20-28

Jesus' resurrection is proof that his followers will also have victory over death and live forever with new bodies. **How does believing that impact someone's view of death? How does that impact how they live?**

"Reasonable" 1 Corinthians 15: 29-34

Jesus' resurrection and promise of eternal life is what makes living and suffering for Him bearable, so Christ followers should live with discernment with godly friends. **What ways have you suffered for following Jesus? How does fellowship help you live well?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus' resurrection is central to the gospel and gives His followers hope. That hope for a new heaven and earth with God over all empowers believers to endure suffering and to live righteously. **Has your life shown a belief in Christ's victory over death, or a fear of death and suffering? Has your lifestyle shown a commitment to Jesus, or have you been letting the wrong crowd influence you? Ask God to renew your sense of hope in Him so that you may be led His spirit.**

The Death of Death

I. Announce:

- A. **Welcome:** those **Online &** in Sanct/LC/Courtyard. (back in Sanct next week) **Joe.**
- B. **Slide1 Baby Dedications** (twins): **Levi Michael** Velasco **&** **Judah Andrew** Velasco.
1. **Parents:** Andrew & Amy Velasco. (Sierra sister, 2) [priest & praise]
- C. **Slide2 Happy Father's Day:** Fathers please accept our token of appreciation for you - we have **Nachos** after service/near playground. :))
- D. **Things my Dad taught me:**
1. **The importance of a day of Worship:** Pile in our family of 9 in our Kingswood station wagon. Church (Bell's Pew). Sometimes Winchell's donuts, on the way home, **but always a huge breakfast for the 9 of us.**
 2. **The importance of Family** (usually around the bbq, shish-kebab's). **Swimming together in the back yard.** Then in our family Den to watch *Mutual of Omah's Wild Kingdom*, then Disney, then they'd make me go to bed when Laugh-In came on. (Watching Johnny Cash specials, an Old Western, Hee-Haw, 3 Stooges, and my dad's favorite cartoon Road Runner)
 3. **His love for Saving Energy:** Hearing him walk through the house turning off lights & counting out loud as he goes (there's 5) so we all could hear. (never turn on the heater)
 4. **The importance of Family Friendships:** most all of them spanning decades. Our Vacations were *mostly* with family friends, all renting diff Beach Houses for a week each summer in Newport.
 5. **The importance of Hospitality:** St. Gregory's, our Catholic Parish in Whittier, was sponsoring Vietnamese **refugee** families after the VN War. Dad taught us what *hospitality* was, by hosting a family. Even inviting 1 family member to come live w/us.

a) Which reminds me ... This Thurs is *World Refugee Day*. 120 Million Refugees in our world, that means 1 in 69 people on the planet have been forced from their homes (if you add IDP's that's 1/2 pop of US).

E. **Prayer:** Father we thank you for our dads that were protectors. Dads who stood on sidelines and said, *you did great*. Dads who knew how to fix everything, and serve their family. Dads who had an awesome work ethic. Dads who did their best to love our mom. Dads who did their best to be present.

1. I pray this morning for the **sons**, whose experience with their **father** was difficult, remind them today that **Jesus is the better Son on our behalf**.
2. I pray for the **Fathers**, whose experience with your **sons/daughters** was difficult, remind them today that **God the Father is the better Father on our behalf**. Father, we also thank you for the **spiritual dads** you gave to us.

II. Slide3 **Intro: The Death of Death**

- A. Remember the Corinthian Christians denied **not** the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, **but** the resurrection of **their own bodies**.
- B. In this section of ch.15 **Paul** now lays out what is *Hypothetical, Factual, and Reasonable* when it come to *our own resurrection*.

III. Slide4 **HYPOTHETICAL (12-19) Read**

- A. **The problem:** How can some deny resurrection? *The Consequences of no Resurrection*
- B. If Christ is not raised then here are **the horrible conclusions**: the **Easter story** is a lie. Gospel **Preaching** is useless. The **Good News** is **no news** at all. Gospel **Preachers** are all liars. Believers *who have already died* are **lost**. Living believers **trust** in God is *empty, hallow, worthless, hopeless, and powerless*, **and** we are still in our **sins**, most **miserable**, and we are to be **pitied**.
- C. *The resurrection is not just an add-on to the gospel, but the very heart of it.* Keller

IV. Slide5a **FACTUAL (20-28) Read** practical implications and encouragement

A. Paul moves from *Hypothetical, if Christ is not risen* (17); to the *Factual, now Christ is risen* (20).

1. He asked, If Jesus *didn't* rise what do we **Lose**? - Now he asks, If Jesus *did* rise what do we **Gain**?

B. But **IN FACT** Christ *has been* raised (20) - Paul starts arguing for *our resurrection*, on the basis of *Jesus' resurrection*.

C. **Fallen Asleep** – not soul sleep [for when we die, our soul/spirit goes immediately to be w/the Lord]

1. *To be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord*. 2 Cor.5:8

a) It is our **body** then that awaits resurrection.

2. **Soul Sleep** is the teaching that when a person dies, their soul "sleeps" until the time of the future resurrection. *In this condition, the person is not aware or conscious*.

3. The **Jehovah's Witnesses** & the **7th-day Adventists** hold to this doctrine.

a) **The J.W.'s** teach 'soul annihilation' [i.e. after death a person ceases to exist] (at the future resurrection they maintain that the soul is made again, a re-creation of the individual).

b) **The SDA's** teach that the soul is inactive & resides in the memory of God.

4. **Instead**, it was said of **Moses & Elijah** at the Mnt of Trans (Mo dead for 1550yrs - Eli dead for 900yrs). *And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease/ departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem*.

a) They were very much alive, very awake, still had their identity, and personality, they could talk, had reasoning skills, etc.

b) Side-note, "*Moses had asked God to show him his glory, and 1,500 years later his prayer was still being answered.*" (in Jesus, not a reflective glory like Mo, but His glory that He had been veiling, was a glory from w/in)

D. **Christ's Resurrection as Firstfruits** (20-23) Certainty

E. *The resurrection promises not just a spiritual afterlife, but a renewed physical existence*. Keller

F. **Death** through Adam, **life** through Christ (21,22)

1. The byproduct of Jesus's resurrection, is **our resurrection** ... **so also in Christ shall all be made alive** (22).
2. **Slide5b** *In Adam you live once (phys), die twice (sp & phys). In Christ you live twice (sp & phys), die once (phys).

G. **Order**: Christ the **first fruits**, **and then** those who belong to Him (that's us saints!).

1. If there is something **1st**, then there must be a **2nd**. **If Jesus is the 1st fruits, then their is an abundant harvest yet to come!**
2. Have you secured your plot as **a stalk of wheat** in His Harvest?

H. **Victory over Death** (24-28)

I. The Son subjects Himself to God, that God may be **all in all** (27,28)

1. NLT, **supreme over everything everywhere**.

J. Hear the **triumphant tone**. We have here an assurance that God's plan will ultimately prevail, **and** that death itself will be defeated. **It leaves us with a sense of ultimate security and hope**.

V. **Slide6 REASONABLE (29-34) Read** now reason and logic

A. **Slide7 3 Questions**: (29-32)

1. **What do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead?** (29)
 - a) Whatever **baptism on behalf of the dead** means? (30 diff interpretations) it points to a here-after, otherwise **why would they do it?**
2. **Why are we in danger every hour?** (30), **I die every day** (31).
 - a) Christians were being **hunted, persecuted, & killed**. **Why name the name of Christ and subject yourself to persecution if there is no resurrection?**
3. **What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus?** (29)
 - a) Weren't real beasts (2nd cent). **Figure of speech for the *adversaries* he faced in Ephesus. Why put up w/attacks like this if there is no life beyond the grave?**

b) Knowing there is a resurrection makes **today's trials** bearable & strengthens us to be able to face our own beasts. *What wild beast are you facing in your life right now?* (ladies don't look over at him!)

B. *Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die* - (Isaiah 23:13)

C. **Slide8 3 Commands:** (33-34)

D. He concludes this section with an exhortation of righteous living in light of the resurrection. For Belief in the resurrection should *transform **how we live now***.

1. **Do not be deceived** - "*bad company ruins good morals.*" (poet Menander)

a) Here Paul is urging us to listen discerningly. *Bad company* (not the English rock group from 70's) *but those rejecting the resurrection and life after death. What company do you keep?* [*or, birds of a feather flock together.* Which begs the question, *do you soar w/eagles or walk w/turkeys?*]

2. **Wake up from your drunken stupor** (1 Gk word) - **sober up.** [*as is right* - act w/holiness]

a) *Think with discernment ... take every thought captive.*

3. **Do not go on sinning** - If God shows **your body** *dignity and respect* in raising it from the dead, *shouldn't you show that **dignity and respect** for it now?*

E. *So walk w/wise friends, think w/discernment, act w/holiness, stop sinning.*

F. **Slide9a** Jesus said, *because **I** live, **you** also will live.* (context?)

1. Jn 14:18,19 ***I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you*** (2nd coming).
19 ***Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because **I** live, **you** also will live.***

2. An **orphan** is, a person deprived of *protection and position*. If you are no longer an orphan you are what? **Adopted**. *So*, if Jesus comes to you, you will then have *protection and position*.

- G. **Slide9b** 1 Pet.1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!*
According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope
*through the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead.*
1. **A living hope** (a hope that lives). a hope that is alive today on Father's Day. A hope that is more than artificial, a hope that's more than manufactured, the bible calls it **a living hope**. It's is more than idea, more than a concept, more than a teaching, more than a mantra.
 2. **Slide9c** See, our hope is ***a Person not a principal**. Our hope rose from the dead 2000 years ago, and **ever lives**.
 - a) Oh for 3 days hope **died**. (2 disciples on rd to Emmaus) Lk.24:21 *but we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.*
 - b) You could say hope **died** and then hope **undied**. Hope was **lost**, and then hope **got up again** and was found by the world.
 3. Because **Jesus** got up from the grave, **you** can walk in a hope that **lives**.
- H. **Prayer:** Lord thank u, that death is *not the end*, but a passage to **eternal life** w/ **You**. Which provides us *immense comfort and strength* in the face of *life's trials*. Thank you for *the hope of the resurrection* that helps us face *suffering, loss, even death* with **confidence** and **peace**, through *Your Son Jesus*.
- I. **Nachos!**
- J. Keywords: resurrection, hope, death, life.