

The Spirit, the Body, and the Gifts: The Resurrection and the Gifts  
1 Corinthians 12

**I. Prove It**

**A. Definition**

1. Urban Dictionary - A phrase that, if used in the right way, will guarantee your victory in an argument. It can also be used to annoy anyone you use it against. Most commonly followed by "conversation terminated."

**B. Examples in Current Events**

1. Fact Checks regarding politicians' claims
2. Job applicants invited to take the "Kenexa "Prove It" Test
  - a. This test will help you demonstrate your abilities with programs like Word and Excel, as well as identifying any particular strengths or weaknesses.
  - b. The aim of this test is to "prove" that you have the skills and ability to use Microsoft Office at your new job without too much guidance or prep.

**C. The challenge to Christians**

1. Did the historical Jesus physically rise from the dead?
2. Is the resurrection of Jesus true?
3. Prove it!
  - a. "Christian biblical scholar" denies the resurrection
  - b. Like someone declaring themselves "human" but denying DNA
    - (1) The resurrection of Jesus Christ defines what it means to be Christian.
      - (a) **1 Corinthians 15:13-17 (ESV)** <sup>13</sup> *But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.* <sup>14</sup> *And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.* <sup>15</sup> *We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.* <sup>16</sup> *For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.* <sup>17</sup> *And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.*
      - (b) If Christ has not been raised from the dead, then faith is meaningless and
      - (c) Christianity is nothing more than human beings building a modern tower of Babel in their imaginary quest to reach God on their own terms
    - (2) What evidence is there for the physical resurrection of the historical Jesus?

**II. The Logical, Historical Evidence for the Resurrection**

**A. Three Best Evidences**

1. **The Empty Tomb**

- a. The resurrection begins to be preached in the same city as the empty tomb, making fact checking immensely simple
  - (1) Easily check out the tomb
  - (2) Easily present an occupied tomb/body
- b. The Jewish leaders earliest efforts admitted an empty tomb
  - (1) They paid off the Roman soldiers
  - (2) They derived a fake narrative
  - (3) Because the tomb was empty
  - (4) As hostile witnesses they affirm the tomb in which Jesus was buried following his crucifixion lay unsealed and empty on the third day
- c. The account of the resurrection never takes on the characteristic of legend
- d. The empty tomb was discovered and by women whose testimony, in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, was considered worthless, and yet is consistently upheld
- e. False theory
  - (1) The disciples came and stole away the body of Jesus
  - (2) But,
    - (a) Before and during the crucifixion, from Gethsemane onward, the disciples are negatively characterized as fearful
      - i) They run from the garden
      - ii) They are absent at the cross
      - iii) They are terrorized in the upper room
    - (b) The punishment for disobeying the Roman seal on the tomb was death
    - (c) Where would cowardly disciples suddenly get the courage to defy the Roman and Jewish authorities, and steal the body of Jesus by approaching an armed Roman guard and moving a two ton stone

2. **The Resurrection Appearances**

- a. **1 Corinthians 15:3-7 (ESV) <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.**
- b. The creed in 1 Corinthians 15:3-7 represents an eyewitness testimony standardized within five years of the resurrection
- c. The physicalism of the appearances recorded within five years of the event does not allow enough time for the event to have become

“legendary”

3. The Origin of the Christian Faith
  - a. Without the fact of the resurrection of Jesus, Christianity would never have come into being nor had a chance of becoming a major impact for global cultural change.
  - b. The disciples believed and proclaimed the resurrection
  - c. Facts supporting the resurrection of Jesus
    - (1) Christianity grew despite political and social opposition
    - (2) Christianity grew and spread despite intense, violent, even deadly resistance

#### **B. The Present, Personal Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus**

1. 1 Corinthians 12:12
  - a. **1 Corinthians 12:12 (ESV) *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.***
  - b. **As the church, the Body of Christ in the world today, lives by faith in Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit, God proves to the world Jesus Christ lives!**
2. 4 Ways God’s Work in Your Life Confirms the Resurrection of Jesus
  - a. When God brings you to faith, He proves that genuine faith did not end at the cross.
  - b. When God enables you to love as Christ loves, God proves that genuine love did not end at the cross
  - c. When God ministers through you, as you live in Spirit and His gifts, God proves that grace did not end at the cross
  - d. When God visits you in your afflictions, He proves that hope did not end at the cross.
3. **God’s work in the lives of genuinely redeemed, faithful, Spirit-filled Christians further demonstrates that Jesus Christ rose from the dead and lives!**

### **III. Conclusions from the Resurrection of Jesus**

#### **A. Conclusions**

1. The claims Jesus made about himself are true
2. The claims Jesus made about the Bible as God’s revealed word are true
3. The claims Jesus made about the exclusivity of a relationship with God through faith in him are true
4. The claims Jesus made about final judgment and the need for forgiveness and reconciliation with God are true
5. The claims Jesus made about eternal life are true

#### **B. Implication: Will you put your faith and entrust your life in the crucified and resurrected Christ?**