

The Realness of the Resurrection
1 Corinthians 15:12-34

I. Initial Observations

A. Paul's ongoing strategy

1. Reports

a. Division

(1) Report

(a) **1 Corinthians 1:11 (ESV)** *For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers.*

(2) Response

(a) The cross of Christ unites the people of God in a single faith regardless of who preaches it.

b. Sexual Immorality and Congregational Arrogance

(1) Report

(a) **1 Corinthians 5:1-2 (ESV)** ¹ *It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.* ² *And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.*

(2) Response

(a) The death of Christ calls for rejection of the old life and pursuit of the new.

(b) **1 Corinthians 5:7-8 (ESV)** ⁷ *Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.* ⁸ *Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

c. Lawsuits and the Pursuit of Personal Advantage

(1) Report

(a) **1 Corinthians 6:1 (ESV)** *When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints?*

(b) Wealthy Christians taking one another to court over petty grievances in order to gain social advantage over one another in the church

(2) Response

(a) Through faith in Christ and His work on the cross, all who were once sinners and equally condemned by their sin before God, have become equally new

before God.

- (b) **1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (ESV)** ¹¹ *And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

d. Sexual Immorality (Prostitutes)

(1) Report

- (a) Some Christians apparently still sexual immorality as a religious pursuit for being “close to God”

- (b) **1 Corinthians 6:15 (ESV)** *Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!*

(2) Response

- (a) Faith in Christ joins us with Christ.

- (b) **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (ESV)** ¹⁹ *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

2. Requests

a. Now concerning (8 questions)

- (1) 7:1 Principles for marriage
- (2) 7:25 Principles for betrothed/widows/widowers
- (3) 8:1 Food offered to idols
- (4) 11:1 Public worship, including the Lord’s Supper
- (5) 12:1 Spiritual gifts and public worship
- (6) 15:1 The resurrection of Christ and the future hope of Christians
- (7) 16:1 The collection for the saints
- (8) 16:12 A future visit from Apollos

b. The request in 15:12-34

- (1) **1 Corinthians 15:12 (ESV)** *Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?*
- (2) Apparently some of the Christians in Corinth were teaching there was no resurrection and the church has asked Paul to clarify

c. **READ 15:12-34 HERE**

B. Issues for Later Consideration

1. The submission of the Son to the Father

- a. **1 Corinthians 15:28 (ESV)** *When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.*

- b. Jehovah’s Witnesses wrongly interpret this verse to deny the deity

- of Jesus Christ.
- 2. Baptism for the dead
 - a. **1 Corinthians 15:29 (ESV)** *Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf?*
 - b. Mormons erroneously interpret this verse to mean baptizing the dead as a post-mortem saving grace

C. **The Realness of the Resurrection and It's Real Impact on Christian Hope**

II. **The Realness of the Resurrection and It's Real Impact on Christian Hope**

A. **The Historical Reality of Christ's Resurrection**

- 1. Verified through eyewitness accounts **(15:1-11)**
- 2. Verified through Paul's personal encounter with the risen Christ
 - a. **Acts 9:1-5 (ESV)** ¹ *But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.*
 - b. Paul saw Christ risen and alive with his own eyes.
 - c. The validity of Christ's historical, personal, physical resurrection is without question in Paul's mind

B. **Key Question: What if the realness of the resurrection remains a question in the minds of Christians?**

- 1. Ancient Answers
 - a. Stoics -
 - (1) Soul merges into deity; no personal existence after death
 - (2) Modern Buddhism
 - b. Epicureans
 - (1) Most often remembered for an "eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die" attitude
 - (2) Denied the immortality of the soul; no existence beyond death
 - (3) Modern nihilists, most atheists, many agnostics
 - c. Platonists (most non-religious western culture)
 - (1) Believe in the immortality of the soul but no bodily resurrection
 - (2) Most people who assume an after life assume heaven or hell but have little or no concept of any bodily resurrection
- 2. Implications if there is no resurrection
 - a. 15:13 If there is no resurrection, then not even Christ has been raised

- b. If Christ has not been raised then:
 - (1) 14a Preaching is “futile” - it gains us no personal advantage relative to eternity
 - (2) 14b Faith is “futile”
 - (3) 15 - 19 Gospel misrepresents truth and offers no hope of forgiveness, joy, or hope of the glory of God
 - (a) No forgiveness if Christ has not been raised
 - (b) No future hope of eternal life if Christ has not been raised.
 - (c) No present peace if there is no hope for eternal joy

C. Truth of the Matter

1. Christ has been raised and the spiritual condition of the human race has been irrevocably altered for those who put their faith in Christ
 - a. The resurrection of Christ ends the curse of death for sinful human beings who believe
 - b. The resurrection of Christ extends the reality and the hope of eternal life to all who put their trust in Christ
 - (1) As in Adam all die, even so, in Christ, shall all be made alive.
 - (2) Adam’s sinful actions brought death upon all his progeny
 - (3) Christ’s righteous actions bring life to all his progeny, those who believe in Him and receive Him as their Savior.
2. Those who put their faith in Christ commit themselves, in hope of their own resurrection in Him, to holy lives and holy living.
 - a. **1 Corinthians 15:34 (ESV) *Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.***
 - b. **Romans 6:1-4 (ESV) ¹ *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.***
3. **The greatest need and the greatest opportunity for the church in the world today is to identify sin and leave it behind in hope of the resurrection.**