

Four Reasons Why the Resurrection Matters (1 Corinthians 15)

1. The resurrection affirms the reliability of the Scriptures (v.3-8):

A. According to what Paul received (v.3):

- Paul received private revelation from the Lord Jesus Christ (Gal. 1:15-17).

B. According to the Scriptures (v.3):

- The Messiah (Christ) was to be buried and raised on the third day (Jonah 1:17; Matthew 12:40; John 2:19).
- There is a progressive unveiling of resurrection throughout the Old Testament (Job 19:25-27; Psalm 16:10; 22; 49:15; Isa. 25:8; 26:19; 53:10-11; Ezek. 37:1-14; Dan. 12:1-4; Hos. 13:14).
- The Messiah (Christ) will not see decay (Ps. 16:10).

C. According to His appearance (v.6-8):

- The risen Christ appeared to Peter, the twelve disciples (minus Judas), five hundred, James, and Paul himself (Luke 24:33; Acts 9).

2. The resurrection proves Christ's victory over death (v.20-28; 55-57)

- The wage of sin is death (Romans 6:23), and the sting of death is sin (1 Cor. 15:56).
- Death means separation in two ways:
 - Man, because of sin, is spiritually separated from God, for He is perfect and pure, unable to behold iniquity (Hab. 1:13)
 - Man, because of sin, will physically die
- Sin is the violation of God's moral law in thought, word, or deed written in the hearts of men. Ultimately, it is a failure to love God and man (Matt. 22:36-40).
- Adam, as the federal head, and representative of humanity, sinned (Gen. 3) and was subsequently removed from paradise, which is where Adam and Eve walked "with God" (Gen. 3:8).
- Consequently, every man and woman from His seed is born in sin (v.21-22) by nature and choice (Eph. 2).
- For the sake of those who believe, God made Christ to be sin who knew no sin (not a sinner by nature or by choice) so that in Him (Christ) we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21).
- Through His sufferings on the cross, the wrath of God was satisfied as He cried out, "it is finished" (John 19:30).
- Through Christ's active obedience (perfect in obedience, fulfilling God's moral law) and His passive obedience (assuming on Himself sin which did not belong to Him), many, in faith, are declared righteous.
- God, as just, became the justifier (Rom. 4:25).

- A mediator must represent both parties equally. Christ, as truly God and truly man, can represent man as man and God as God.

3. The resurrection displays the missional role of the Trinity (Acts 2:24)

- All three persons of the Trinity raised Jesus of Nazareth from the grave, for God is one in will, essence, nature, power, and work.
 - The Father raised Jesus from the grave (Gal. 1:1; Rom. 6:4)
 - The Son raised Himself (Jn. 2:19; 5:21-22; 10:17-18; 11:24-25)
 - The Spirit raised Jesus from the grave (Rom. 1:4; 8:11)

4. The resurrection unveils details of our future resurrected bodies (v. 35-55)

- Our bodies will be like His (Phil. 3:20). Christ is the first fruit (v.20).
- The resurrection of Jesus was of a different "kind" than previous resurrections in both the Old and New Testaments. All other bodily resurrections died again.
- Christ's new, resurrected body still had holes from the nails in His wrists, feet, and piercing on His side (John 20:19-20; Luke 24:39-40). Jesus ate with His disciples (Luke 24:41-43; John 21:9-14).
- Christ's new body, humanity, and nature that He received as this new "kind" cannot sin. Our new body and nature will have no decay, unable, and unwilling to sin.

How will our new body be different from our current one?

- A. It will be imperishable (v. 42)
- B. It will be glorious (v. 42)
- C. It will be powerful (v.43)
- D. It will be godly (v.44)

Points of Application:

- It is only through the finished work of Christ's life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension that we can have assurance, in faith, that we are reconciled to God.
- Heaven is not the final destination for those who belong to Christ in faith. The new heavens and new earth are (Job 15:15; Rev. 21-22).
- The genuineness of verbal confessions of faith are validated through the behavior of life (Rom. 10:9-10).
- The positional standing and progressive maturity of the man or woman who has been raised with Christ is demonstrated through their increasing hatred of their sin and subsequent love for Christ Who died in their stead.