

Text: 1 Corinthians 15.1-34**I. Introduction (1.1-9)****II. Conditions reported to Paul (1.10-6.20)****III. Questions asked of Paul (7.1-16.4)**

¹ Cor 7.1 ¶ Now concerning the things about which you wrote...

“The remainder of the body of this epistle deals with questions that the Corinthians had asked Paul in a letter. Paul introduced each of these with the phrase *peri de* (‘now concerning,’ 7:1, 25; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1, 12).”¹

- A. Questions about marriage (7.1-40)
- B. Questions about things sacrificed to idols (8.1-11.1)
- C. Questions about worship services
 - 1. Head coverings (11.2-16)
 - 2. Communion practices (11.17-34)
 - 3. Spiritual Gifts (12-14)
- D. Questions about the Resurrection (15)

The NAS gives three headers for 1 Corinthians 15:

The Fact of Christ’s Resurrection (1-19)

The Order of Resurrection (20-49)

The Mystery of Resurrection (50-58)

The Order of Resurrection (20-49) [Part 2]**Previously**

1. Christ the first fruits of the resurrection (New Creation; in Adam all die, in Christ all live) (20-23)
2. Consummation of the kingdom, conquering death (24-28)

¹ Tom Constable, *Tom Constable’s Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003), 1 Co 7.1.

3. Two additional arguments for resurrection
 - a. Baptism for the dead (29) [refers to universal sense of resurrection — “he’s in a better place”]
 - b. Apostle under attack endures because of the resurrection (30-32)
4. Admonition: don’t let bad doctrine corrupt you spiritually (33-34)

What kind of attack on the doctrine of the resurrection lies behind the question of v. 35?

Attack on the nature of the resurrection

Paul counters this attack with an illustration of the seed which dies and comes to life again. What does this teach us about the resurrection? (36-38)

The old body is resurrected as a new one that is akin to the old, but different

What kind of bodies does Paul compare in v. 39?

Earthly, fleshy bodies

What kinds of bodies does Paul contrast in v. 40, and how do they differ?

Heavenly vs. earthly; differing in glory

What does Paul say differs between the various heavenly bodies? (41)

The glory of each different kind of heavenly body

- A. Not all *flesh* is the same (i.e., earthly bodies).
 - B. Examples of different kinds of *flesh*: people, animals, birds, fish
 - C. There are heavenly and earthly kinds of *bodies*.
 - C’. The *splendor* of heavenly bodies is of one kind and the *splendor* of earthly bodies is of another kind.
- B’. Examples of different kinds of *splendor*: sun, moon, stars

A'. Not all stars (i.e., heavenly bodies) have the same *splendor*.²³

The analogy of differing kinds of bodies illustrates the differences between an earthly body and a resurrection body:

1. Earthly: **perishable**; heavenly: **imperishable** (42)
2. Earthly: **dishonorable**; heavenly: **glory** (43)
3. Earthly: **weakness**; heavenly: **power** (43)
4. Earthly: **natural**; heavenly: **spiritual** (44)

The contrast between the first man and the second man:

A living **soul** vs. a life-giving **spirit** (45)

What is the order of bodies? First **natural**; second **spiritual** (46)

As the comparison continues from v. 47 to v. 49, what is Paul saying about the change of our image?

We are changed from the earthly image of Adam to the heavenly image of Christ

The Mystery of Resurrection (50-58)

What does it mean that flesh and blood and the perishable cannot inherit the kingdom? (50)

The resurrection must occur before we enter heaven

What does “we will not all sleep but all be changed mean”? (51)

All believers will gain resurrection bodies, but not all will die

The change will occur speedily, at the last trump. What does this give us victory over? (52-54) **death**

If death is defeated, what else is defeated, and by whom? (55-57)

Sin is defeated by Christ

What are the implications of the resurrection for believers living the present life? (58)

² Constable, 1 Cor 15.39.

³ Tom Constable, *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003), 1 Co 15:39.

Faithfulness to God, but active work for God, spreading his word in our community