

1 Corinthians 15:35-49 - The Resurrection Body

"The quality of our hope in this life is an expression of the future image we will one day bear"

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹ For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰ There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

⁴² So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

1. Where did you see God at work this week in your life, in the world, in the lives of the people around you?
2. What specifically stood out and spoke to you from your reading and reflecting on this passage/the sermon on Sunday? What further questions or thoughts did it raise for you?
3. Our natural bodies are prone to sin, fail to reflect God's glory, and are physically wasting away by the day. How are you experiencing this painful reality right now? How does it make you feel knowing that these perishable, weak, sinful bodies we now possess will one day be raised in power, will be unfailing, and will truly reflect God's glory?
4. Throughout this chapter, Paul has emphasised that in the final resurrection and new creation, we will have physical bodies that have been raised up in glory. Why do you think it is important for us to understand that we will not be formless spiritual entities in heaven, but physical beings living in a renewed physical creation? How does this differ from the way the world typically thinks of the afterlife? Is this different from what you have thought eternity will be like?

Consider that human relationship (**Gen. 1:28; 2:23-25**) , the enjoyment of food (**Gen. 1:29-30**), the appreciation of physical beauty (**Gen. 2:9**), and God's mandate to work and to care for the earth (**Gen. 1:26-28**) were all given as good gifts *before* humanity's fall into sin. Consider also that there will be rewards and responsibilities given in heaven.

His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' (Matthew 25:21. See also Matt. 5:12, 16:27)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

5. If there is physical continuity between this life and our life in the renewed creation, how should that inspire us to live here and now? Why do our lives and our stewardship of what God has given us actually matter in the scope of eternity?
6. Read **v.49**. Although naturally we bear the image of Adam- we sin and we die- if we are in Christ through faith, we will one day bear His image, being imperishable and reflecting God's glory. Even though we do so imperfectly in our current state, we are called to begin to reflect Christ's glory, His future Kingdom and renewed creation with our redeemed lives here and now. What does it mean for us to "bear the image of [Jesus]"? What keeps you from doing so? How can you bear Christ's image wherever you go this week?
7. How is God asking you to respond? How will you live out the truth of God's word this week?