

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** The Resurrection Body

**SERMON REFERENCE:** 1 Corinthians 15

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2291

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## 1) INTRODUCTION

- a) 1 Corinthians 15 is the resurrection chapter in the Bible.
- b) 2 Corinthians 5:8
  - i) When a believer in Christ dies, his spirit goes immediately into the presence of the Lord.
    - (1) The spirits of Christians who have already died are with our Lord, rejoicing face-to-face with Jesus.
- c) When we die, our bodies stay here in the Earth until the resurrection; there is coming a resurrection when our literal bodies will be raised up.
  - i) The Bible calls our bodies “our earthly house.”
    - (1) 2 Corinthians 5:1
    - (2) The Bible teaches that one day there will be a resurrection of the human body.
- d) 1 Corinthians 15:35
  - i) For the children of God, the resurrection is our future.
  - ii) Some may question how a literal resurrection is possible.
    - (1) Some think a resurrection is scientifically impossible.
      - (a) The resurrection is not dependent upon science; it is dependent upon Almighty God, the Creator of science.
    - (2) Acts 26:8
      - (a) When we acknowledge the fact of God, we don’t have any difficulty believing in miracles.
    - (3) Genesis 1:1
      - (a) If God can make the Heavens and the Earth out of nothing, then He can certainly raise a human body out of something.
- e) Charles Haddon Spurgeon once said that everything that God does is wonderful until we get used to it.
  - i) There are so many miracles that happen around us each day that we’ve become used to it.
- f) There are five things found in 1 Corinthians 15 that we need to learn about our resurrected bodies.

## 2) IT IS ILLUSTRATED WITH GRAIN (1 Corinthians 15:36-37)

- a) The word “quicken” in this passage means “made alive.”
- b) Paul uses a specific kind of seed as an illustration in this passage; he uses grain.
  - i) Paul says that the resurrection is like grain (wheat) in that it is put in the ground, it rots and decays, and then it fructifies and comes back to life.
  - ii) It is significant that Paul refers to a seed of grain and not a fruit or vegetable seed.
    - (1) The fruit of an apple seed is an apple.
    - (2) The fruit of a grain of wheat is another grain of wheat, exactly like the original.
      - (a) When a grain of wheat goes into the ground and dies and decays, there is a germ of life that stays in that seed and, therefore, the seed reproduces.
      - (b) In every person, there is a part of us that never dies; the spiritual nature in you does not die.
        - (i) John 11:26

- (ii) Your spirit is that which your resurrected body will be raised up around.
  - c) Regardless of time, disease, destruction or the amount of decay that may happen to our physical bodies, God is able to resurrect us at the appointed time.
    - i) No matter the amount of disintegration of those who have died through the centuries, God will resurrect the redeemed.
      - (1) Even as we live, our bodies are constantly changing.
        - (a) There is not a particle in your body today that was in your body ten years ago.
      - ii) There is a life principle that makes your body your body.
        - (1) Even as our bodies change, our DNA remains.
        - (2) Your molecular structure, or DNA, makes you uniquely you.
      - iii) Psalm 139:16
        - (1) Even before conception, the omniscient God had all of the members of our bodies written in a book.
      - iv) God, who made everything out of nothing, will take that particular plan that He has for you, that life principle, and will resurrect your physical body.
    - d) When our bodies are resurrected, we will receive a brand new body; yet, it will be the body that He has already given us.
      - i) When the seed of grain goes into the ground, there is a life principle that remains.
      - ii) The seed of grain comes out of the ground as brand new grain.
      - iii) No particles from the old grain are in the new grain; yet, it is part of the old grain.
    - e) We do not have to understand the resurrection to believe it.
- 3) IT IS INDIVIDUALIZED WITH UNIQUENESS (1 Corinthians 15: 38)
  - a) We are not all alike in Heaven; God makes no two bodies alike on Earth.
    - i) God does not make copies, only originals.
      - (1) God is a God of uniqueness.
      - (2) God is a God of infinite variety and differentiation.
    - ii) We will be ourselves in the resurrection.
  - b) We will fellowship in Heaven and maintain our identities.
    - i) Matthew 17
      - (1) On the Mount of Transfiguration, Moses, Elijah and Jesus talked with each other; and the disciples, though they had never before seen Moses and Elijah, knew them.
  - c) Our bodies will be individualized with uniqueness, and we will know one another in Heaven.
- 4) IT IS INFUSED WITH PERFECTION (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)
  - a) Our natural body will be the same, but will be infused with perfection.
  - b) It is changed from corruption to incorruption.
    - i) 1 Corinthians 15:42
      - (1) The word “corruption” in this passage means “that which decays.”
      - (2) Our physical bodies are continually dying while on Earth, but will be raised in incorruption.

- c) It is changed from dishonor to honor.
    - i) 1 Corinthians 15:43
      - (1) God wants us to have a glorious body.
        - (a) A diamond and coal are both made of carbon, but the coal is carbon in humiliation; the diamond is carbon in glory.
          - (i) The same substance, only improved and changed.
          - (ii) So will we be changed from dishonor to glory, from corruption to incorruption.
      - ii) We have never seen a human being as God intended us to be.
        - (1) Centuries of sin have marred and scarred mankind.
  - d) It is changed from weakness to power.
    - i) 1 Corinthians 15:43
    - ii) One day, all of the limitations of this Earth will fall away.
  - e) It is changed from a natural body to a spiritual body.
    - i) 1 Corinthians 15:44
      - (1) The word “natural” means “soulish.”
      - (2) Our bodies are currently motivated by “soulish” principles rather than spiritual principles.
    - ii) In this passage, the author does not say a spirit body, but rather a spiritual body.
      - (1) There is no such thing as a spirit body; a spirit body is a contradiction in terms.
        - (a) Luke 24:39
      - (2) Our bodies will be raised a literal, actual body; but it will be motivated by spiritual principles.
    - iii) There will be a literal resurrected body and a place for us to put a resurrected foot on.
      - (1) Heaven is a real place.
        - (a) John 14:3
- 5) IT IS IDENTIFIED WITH JESUS (1 Corinthians 15:45-49)
- a) Right now, we have the image of the earthy; but one day, we will have the image of the heavenly.
    - i) Adam, the first man and the natural man, is referred to as the earthy.
    - ii) Jesus Christ, the second Adam and the spiritual man, is the heavenly.
    - iii) We are currently like Adam in our bodies, but one day we will be like Jesus.
      - (1) We will be individuals, we will have our same bodies, but our bodies will be like the Lord Jesus Christ.
      - (2) God will conform us into the image of Jesus Christ; we will bear His image.
        - (a) Romans 8:29
  - b) 1 Corinthians 15:48
    - i) Adam was made in the image of God.
    - ii) But that image was marred and disfigured when Adam sinned.
  - c) Genesis 5:3
    - i) We are now in the image of Adam.
    - ii) One day, we will be transformed into the image of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- d) 1 John 3:2
  - i) There are still many questions we don't have answers to regarding our resurrected bodies, but we do know that we will be like Jesus.
    - (1) Jesus had a real body.
    - (2) Jesus was not a ghost after His resurrection.
      - (a) Luke 24:36-40
      - (b) Jesus was real, He could be touched, He ate food, and He fellowshiped with those around Him.
  - e) The old body will go down to the grave, will then wake up on resurrection morning and will be like the Lord Jesus, and yet be the individual you.
    - i) Psalm 17:15
  
- 6) IT IS IMMORTALIZED WITH VICTORY (1 Corinthians 15:51-57)
  - a) A mystery in the Bible is a sacred secret that we can only know by divine revelation.
    - i) It is not something that we can figure out on our own.
  - b) Through Jesus Christ, we become immortal and victorious.
    - i) 1 Corinthians 15:55-57
      - (1) The two-fold anthem of the redeemed:
        - (a) "Death, where is your sting?"
          - (i) Those who are alive when Jesus Christ returns will never know death.
        - (b) "Grave, where is your victory?"
          - (i) Those who have died and are resurrected will be able to look back victoriously at the grave that tried to hold them.
  - c) The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.
    - i) We die because we are sinners.
      - (1) Romans 6:23
    - ii) The Lord Jesus Christ took the sting of sin for you and me.
      - (1) The sting of death is now gone because of Jesus Christ.
        - (a) Jesus took the pain out of parting.
        - (b) Jesus took the dread out of dying.
        - (c) Jesus took the gloom out of the grave.
        - (d) Jesus has given us a hope that is steadfast and sure.
      - (2) 2 Corinthians 5:8
      - (3) 2 Corinthians 2:14
  - d) 1 Corinthians 15:58
    - i) It pays to serve Jesus.
  
- 7) CONCLUSION
  - a) As a believer in Christ, your spirit will go directly to Heaven upon death; and then your body will be raised from the dead, gathered around that principle which is written in God's book and makes you uniquely you, and you will rise and be like the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - i) This is what Easter is all about.
  - b) When Jesus Christ died upon the cross, the enemy thought he had won.

- c) Calvary was Satan's biggest mistake because that is where Jesus defeated the enemy.
- d) Jesus rose again and walked out of the grave, and now we can have the victory through Christ.
- e) What a tragedy it would be to celebrate the resurrection and yet never receive the free gift of salvation and spend an eternity in Hell.
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31