

The Resurrected Body of Jesus

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is clearly stated in the New Testament. It is undeniably evidenced and essential to biblical Christianity.

From the beginnings of Christianity there were those who denied or twisted the doctrine of the resurrection. Chapter 15 of First Corinthians was written to answer one such attack on the truth. In 2 Timothy 2:17-18, Paul warned of two men who were in error about the resurrection. What these two men were saying was not insignificant, for they were overthrowing the faith of many.

It is essential for us to hold true to what the Bible teaches about the resurrection of Jesus.

- Wrong thinking on the resurrection is a mark of a false prophet, 1 John 4:2; 2 John 7.
- The truth about the resurrection is necessary content to the only gospel that will save. Romans 4:20-25; Romans 10:9. The resurrection was an essential element of the Gospel preached. For example: Acts 1:21,22; 2:23,24,31,32; 3:14,15,26

I. The Statement of the Truth.

A. Our church doctrinal statement states: "...that He literally arose from the dead **bodily.**" **We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord Jesus Christ.** There is a distinct identity (connection) between the body that was laid in the grave, and the resurrected body that was witnessed by the disciples. The resurrected Jesus, was Jesus, not just a spiritual likeness of Him. ***The Biblical Evidence for this truth:***

1. **The empty tomb.** Matthew 28:6; John 20:6, 7 There was no "body" left in the grave.

2. **The resurrected body could be touched, handled, and felt.** It was a "real" body.

John 20:17, 27; Mt. 28:9; Luke 24:39; 1 Jn. 1:1. In His resurrected body, **Jesus ate and breathed.**

Luke 24:30, 41-43; John 21:12,13; Acts 10:40,41; John 20:22

3. **The resurrected body had wounds,** identical to the ones suffered by Jesus.

John 20:27; Revelation 5:6, 1:7; Zechariah 12:10

4. **Jesus' resurrected body was recognizable.** There was a physical identity between His pre and post resurrection body. (appearance, voice, scars)

B. The resurrected body of Christ was "**changed.**" It differs from a body which was resuscitated.

In the resurrection, there was an identity/connection/utilization of the old body, but a transformation of it in the process. In resurrection the body is not simply "resuscitated", it is transformed and receives properties appropriate to the new existence. The resurrected body of Jesus transcended the laws of nature (this earthly existence). Luke 24:31, 36; John 20:19, 26; Acts 1:9-11; 26:13-16. The resurrected body has points of identity with the earthly body but it is differently constituted. We are not told how God does this, only that He does it.

Note the contrasts of 1 Corinthians 15 Something "changed" in the resurrection.

	Pre Resurrection	Post Resurrection
v. 40	terrestrial (earthly)	celestial (heavenly)
v. 42	corruption (perishable)	incorruption (imperishable)
v. 43	dishonor	glory (shining, luminous)
v. 43	weak	powerful (not subject to weariness or other limitations of our present body)
v. 44	natural	spiritual (supernatural)
v. 53	mortal	immortal

II. Applications and Implications.

How will my knowledge of Christ's resurrection impact the way I live my life? Will my choices and/or my behavior change as a result of knowing and believing these truths? What will the knowledge of Christ's resurrection "do" in my life?

A. **The resurrection of Jesus assures my resurrection.** John 5: 28-29

When the resurrection will happen will vary for different groups of people, but it is certain that it will happen for all man.

1. For Christians it assures the resurrection unto life.
Without this resurrection, there is no final victory over death, 1 Corinthians 15:54
2. For the unsaved, it assures the resurrection unto death. Cp. Revelation 20:11-14

B. **Jesus' resurrection body is the pattern for what ours will be like.**

Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 15:49, 51-53; Romans 8:11, 23

Our resurrected bodies will have the following characteristics, because Christ's did:

- Fully developed or mature in appearance.
- Identity, recognition. (cp. 1 Thessalonians 4:13, 18 We will be physically identifiable)
- "Flesh and bones." (we will have "substance" and will not be just "spirit." Luke 24:36-43)
- Touched, communicate, consume food. Luke 24:39ff
- Not subject to decay; sickness, weariness.
- Supernatural powers beyond the laws of this present earth and our natural bodies.

1. Because "resurrection" connects us to our present bodies, our "salvation" also involves our body.

Man is not a "person" with a disposable body. Upon death the immaterial part of man is separated from the body, but that does not make that body "meaningless" and now "out of the picture." At the resurrection there will be a reunion of my soul and spirit with that body.

The hope of the resurrection can be displayed in how we deliberately treat a dead body. Our Christian funerals ought to be distinct from pagan funerals because of the surety and hope of the resurrection.