

Our Amazing Resurrection Bodies (1 Corinthians 15:35-49)

- Paul now endeavors to answer the skeptics' questions: *"How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?"* His answer makes a compelling case for God's great ability to resurrect a dead body since He is able to turn a seed into a plant, create distinctive kinds of earthly and heavenly bodies, and give believers new future bodies that are very different and fitted for the world to come.

① Our new bodies will be seed-like dynamo's that produce a body of God's design (15:36-38)

- Paul appeals to their agrarian knowledge to teach them about the ability of a *"seed"* that is planted and what it produces by God's determination.
- There is continuity between what is planted and what is produced (a kernel of corn won't produce a blueberry bush, but a stalk of corn)
- There is also a contrast between what is planted and what is produced (a kernel of corn won't produce a kernel of corn, but a stalk with ears of corn on it)
- In the resurrection, a body that dies will have continuity (the old body is connected to the new as you) and will reveal a contrast (your new body will be different than your old body). If God gives to all the seeds of the earth their own bodies, why can't He determine the form for the resurrection bodies of His own people?

② Our new bodies will be specifically distinct from other forms in God's creation (15:39-42a)

- In God's design, He has created distinct kinds or forms or types of *"bodies"*. If God has a mind to create so many kinds of bodies (earthly & heavenly material bodies), why would it be too hard for Him to create bodies for resurrected saints?
- He uses two kinds of bodies He has created: the *"earthly"* and the *"heavenly"* kinds that are distinct in what they do, where they exist, and how they look.
 - There are *"earthly"* terrestrial material bodies (v.39, 40b): He created *"men...beasts...birds...fish"* (v. 39) and they have distinct kinds of *"flesh"* and *"glory"* (v. 40-41)
 - There are *"heavenly"* celestial material bodies (v. 40-41) have their own *"glory"* (the radiance of the sun, moon, and stars)
- He then connects the resurrection of the dead to another form or kind of distinction (v. 42a). Again, if God can make all these earthly and heavenly *"bodies"*, then He won't have any trouble making a new you at the resurrection.

③ Our new bodies will be supernaturally different for their eternal existence (15:42b-49)

- Paul looks at six ways our resurrection bodies will be supernaturally different and transformed from our present bodies. Just as God has made many different bodies in our universe, so He will make resurrection bodies different from our present bodies.
 - 1) Our body will supernaturally change from being a *"perishable"* body to being an *"imperishable"* one (v. 42b). We currently live in bodies that are decaying and dying, but when the resurrection comes, they will be unable to break down or decay in any way.
 - 2) Our body will supernaturally change from being *"in dishonor"* to being *"raised in glory"* (v. 43a). Right now, our bodies display a shame or disgrace because sin is taking a toll on them, but in the resurrection, they will radiate a glorious light and appearance like Jesus did in the transfiguration (Mark 9:3)

- 3) Our body will supernaturally change from being "*in weakness*" to being "*raised in power*" (v. 43b). Right now, our bodies are subject to all kinds of physical limitations by their need for rest, exercise and sleep, but in the resurrection, they will have superhuman power that is compared to Jesus' resurrection (Eph.1:19-20)
 - 4) Our body will supernaturally change from being "*natural*" to being "*spiritual*" (v. 44, 46). Right now, we live in a natural body that fits our natural earthly existence, but in the future resurrection, our new bodies will be suitable to our spiritual heavenly existence.
 - 5) Our body will supernaturally change from being an "*earthy...first Adam*" like body to being a "*heavenly...last Adam*" like body (v. 45, 47-49). The natural earthly body is like Adam's body (the first Adam and first man)) and as a "*living soul*" he represents all who are earthly "*earthy*" people. But in the resurrection, our spiritual heavenly bodies will be like Christ's (our last Adam & second man) who represents believers as a "*life-giving*" spirit
- We do not know everything about our future resurrection bodies, but we do know that "*we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is*" (1 John 3:2) and that is our ultimate hope and joy.