

## **I'll Have a New Body**

**Big Idea:** Because the resurrection is real, I can be confident in Jesus' power to give me a new body.

Paul has demonstrated that Jesus is risen. He has been raised from the grave. He has also shown, that not only does Jesus have power and authority to come back to life, but he also has the power and authority to bring back to life all who belong to him. Paul continued the explanation to the Corinthians by answering the question— What kind of body will we have?

Look at Paul's opening questions. They build upon one another with the second question expressing the main idea.

1Co 15:35 (ESV) But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?"

### **1) To understand the resurrection body—look at Creation**

Now to answer the question, Paul came at the answer by picking up illustrations from nature. You will remember Paul had already used an agricultural term in the beginning of the chapter that would have drawn their attention to a seed holding fast in fertile soil and producing a crop. In verses 36-38, he again used the seed to demonstrate how we can begin to understand God's power to give us a new kind of body in the resurrection.

1 Co 15:36-38 (ESV) 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.

I'm not a gardener or a farmer, but I think I understand the basic concept Paul described here. When you sow a seed in the ground and bury it in the soil, as it disintegrates, dissolves, and dies it transforms into a new kind of life. That mustard seed becomes a mustard plant, that acorn becomes an oak tree. That wheat seed becomes a beautiful stalk of wheat.

**Consider this aspect of the resurrection that Paul has described here for the Corinthians and for us. God has created the world around us in such a glorious way that nature itself, every tiny seed that goes into the ground and produces a plant is declaring the nature of the resurrection is a glorious reality. Day after day, every seed that goes into the ground and rises into something beautiful and brand new is an illustration of the resurrection body of the believer. In dying there is life. What is sown is not the body that will be. God will give you a brand new body just as he has chosen!**

**To add emphasis to what he has described, Paul now turns to all of creation, not just plants and seeds.**

**[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, So is it with the resurrection of the dead.**

**Paul told the Corinthians, look at all of nature! Humans are different from animals and birds and fish. Planets and moons differ from stars. So it is with the resurrection of the dead!**

**Should it shock or amaze any of us that God, in his infinite ability and creativity, can resurrect our dead bodies and completely transform them into a new and glorious body? If we are to die before the Lord Jesus returns, why should it shock us that this body that is sown in the ground will be raised to a newly transformed body with a different kind of life, ability, and glory?**

**And yet our resurrection in and through Christ produces life in us of the same, but yet, different kind.**

## **2) To understand the resurrection body—look at Christ**

**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.**

**We all have this innate desire to want to live forever. Want proof? Look at all the fitness plans and diet plans. Look at all the movie stars who desperately fight time with a lift here and a lift there. The resurrection that Paul has described for the Corinthians and for us, demonstrates that this life is not all there is. We will one day be reunited body and spirit.**

**If we want to truly understand the resurrection body that every believer will enjoy, we have to look to Jesus. God breathed into Adam in Genesis 2 and he became a living being that all natural life flows out of. Jesus Christ became the progenitor of all those who are spiritually alive. It is the life of Jesus Christ that gives us life.**

**What kind of life will it be? What kind of resurrection body will we have? Paul used four contrasts to help us to understand the nature of our future bodies.**

**Perishable to Imperishable**

**Dishonor to Glory**

**Weakness to Power**

**Natural to Spiritual**

**We are all born into a body that is perishing. It’s a sad reality but we are all fading away. Our bodies are decaying. Our bodies are weak. Our bodies are natural. The end result is that we will all one day be placed in the ground and it doesn’t matter how well the funeral home does its job, our bodies were made from the dust of the ground and one day they will return to the dust of the ground because we bear the image of Adam.**

**But praise the Lord that is not the end of the story! Through the life-giving resurrection power of Jesus we get a brand-new body, just like his!**

**Php 3:20-21 (ESV) But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, [21] who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.**

- a) **Imperishable**—our bodies will be transformed into a body that has no expiration date! No longer will we experience imperfection, sickness, or death
- b) **Glorious**—our bodies will be transformed into a radiant, pure, honorable body!
- c) **Powerful**—Our bodies will be strong and no longer ravaged by weakness. We will be capable of physical feats that we've never experienced before.
- d) **Spiritual**—Our bodies will be supernatural, immortal, transformed.

To really understand these bodies, we need to see what Jesus' resurrection body was like:

1. Jesus was still human. He could be touched. He showed the scars from his crucifixion. He ate fish. He was still recognized as Jesus. His body was the same but different. His voice was the same.
2. His resurrected body had new abilities that he didn't demonstrate before his death. He could appear where he wanted at will. He could disappear. He could enter locked rooms by just appearing. He was not held by natural laws like gravity—he ascended into the clouds.

So, if our resurrected bodies will be like his glorious body:

1. We will still be human. We will be able to be touched. We will eat. We will still be recognized as who we were in this life. Our voice will be recognized. I don't think we will bear our scars like Jesus does, however. His scars are a badge of honor declaring his goodness and grace to save us and to make it possible for us to be in heaven.

2. Our resurrected bodies will have new abilities. It's possible we will be able to travel anywhere at any time in God's glorious new creation. There won't be time by the way. Our bodies will be perfected. We will bear the perfect image of our Savior. Our vision will be perfect. Our hearing will be perfect. We will run and never tire. We will jump. I'm assuming, based on the ascension, we will not be held by any kind of gravity.

**[49] Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.**

**“Jesus reversed the cosmic order for his people! In order to save his people, Jesus, the only naturally imperishable one, became perishable on their behalf. The man of heaven took on a body of dust in order that people who are made of dust might take on a heavenly body. The imperishable became perishable that the perishable might become imperishable. Jesus, the glorious one, experienced dishonor so that the dishonorable might experience glory. Jesus, the powerful one, became weak so that the weak might become powerful. Jesus who deserved life experienced death so that those who deserved death might experience life. Jesus, “the man of heaven” made himself a Son of Man—a man of the earth—so that the sons of Adam, men of the earth, might become men of heaven. In this Jesus the natural and the supernatural come together. The present and the future converge. This is how individuals can be certain that “just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.”**

**We will have a new body in the resurrection! Need a reminder? Look at the creation all around you! Every seed, every plant is a built in reminder of God's glorious power to make us a new creation! We will one day experience a brand-new life in a brand-new body in a brand-new place. It will be life like we've never known it and it will never end!**

### **Lifegroup Discussion**

1. What lessons do we learn from the creation about our future resurrected bodies?
2. How does understanding Paul's use of the creation to understand the resurrection strengthen our faith in God's creativity and power?
3. Paul used 4 contrasts to discuss our resurrection bodies (imperishable, glorious, powerful, spiritual). Discuss each one and how it shapes your thoughts about your future resurrection body. How does the resurrected body of Jesus shape our understanding?
4. Why can we live with confidence about our future hope?