

*“If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. . . . But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”*

1 Corinthians 15:13-14, 20 (NIV)

### **Scriptural Reference: 1 Corinthians 15**

The doctrine of the bodily resurrection is not some unimportant peripheral doctrinal issue, it is part of God’s entire plan of salvation. It’s therefore critical to understand the meaning of the resurrection.

A non-physical resurrection is like a sunless sunrise. There’s no such thing. Resurrection means that we will have bodies or we wouldn’t be resurrected!

*“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” (vss. 3-4)*

**This is the gospel message! If the cross is the payment for our sins,  
the empty tomb is the receipt!**

The Corinthian Christians did not deny Jesus’ resurrection; the problem was they denied their own resurrection.

In verses 13-19 Paul logic connecting salvation and resurrection is this:

- If there is no truth of my resurrection, then Jesus did not rise from the dead
- If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then death has power over Him and defeated Him
- If death has power over Jesus, He is not God
- If Jesus is not God, He cannot offer a complete sacrifice for sins
- If Jesus cannot offer a complete sacrifice for sins, my sins are not completely paid for before God
- If my sins are not completely paid for before God, then I am still in my sins
- Therefore, if Jesus is not risen, He is unable to save me

But Praise God, Jesus did resurrect on that third day! *“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”* (vs. 20)

**The Resurrection Body** (vss 35-57)

It's hard to understand exactly what our resurrection bodies will be like, much of it is still a mystery (vs. 51) but the resurrection will be a material glorified body. (vss. 53-54)

Jesus said, *"Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."* Luke 24:39

*"The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."* Genesis 2:7 (NIV)

The Hebrew word for "living being" is *nephesh*, often translated "soul." The point at which Adam became *nephesh* is when God joined his body (dust) and spirit (breath) together. Adam was not a living human being until he had both material (physical) and immaterial (spiritual) components.

Our physical bodies are an essential aspect of who we are, not just shells for our spirits to inhabit and then thrown away. Death is an abnormal condition (result of the Fall of Man) because it tears apart what God created and joined together which was very good (Genesis 1:31). God intended for our bodies to last as long as our souls.

*"When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality."* (vs. 54)

### **When will the Resurrection take place?**

The first great resurrection was the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The first great resurrection of the Church will occur at the time of the rapture which can take place at any time. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Last great resurrection will occur when Christ returns to earth (His Second Coming) at the end of the Tribulation period. Revelation chapters 6-18

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