

DISCUSSION QUERIES

1 Corinthians 15:20-34

READ 15:20-23

20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also came through a man. 22 For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

DISCUSS

What does 'firstfruits' imply is coming?

- More of the same.

What does it mean to be 'in Adam' and to be 'in Christ'?

- To be a natural descendant of Adam.
- To belong to Christ by grace through faith.

Does verse 22 say that all human beings will be saved by Jesus?

- No. Only those who are 'in Christ'.

READ 15:24-25

24 Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, when he has brought to an end all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

DISCUSS

What is the sequence of events mentioned in verses 24 & 25?

1. Christ reigns from heaven.
2. Christ finally 'puts an end' to the fallen spirits that rule over nations.
3. Christ hands the kingdom over to the Father.

READ 15:26-28

26 The last enemy to be eliminated is death. 27 For he has put everything in subjection under his feet. But when it says "everything" has been put in subjection, it is clear that this does not include the one who put everything in subjection to him. 28 And when all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

DISCUSS

Who is currently in charge of the whole world?

- The Son of God

HEADER

What is humanity's biggest problem, which Christ will solve, forever?

- Humans die. Christ will eliminate death as his final act in the end of times.

Who will be in charge of everything forever afterwards?

- God (28) God the Father (24)

READ 15:29-31

29 Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, then why are they baptized for them? 30 Why too are we in danger every hour? 31 Every day I am in danger of death! This is as sure as my boasting in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord.

DISCUSS

Are we supposed to get baptized on behalf of dead folk who were not baptized?

- No, even though some Christians thought they should do so.

Since we are to be raised back to life, how long should we try to live, now?

- We must run the risk of an early death, in order to serve the Lord while we still can.

READ 15:32-34

32 If from a human point of view I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what did it benefit me? If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die. 33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." 34 Sober up as you should, and stop sinning! For some have no knowledge of God—I say this to your shame!

DISCUSS

What are some common human attitudes about life and death?

- Enjoy life, for this is all there is.

What does it matter whether we try to lead a moral life, or not?

- Know this: God judges sinful behaviour!