

DISCUSSION QUERIES
1 Corinthians 15:42-58

READ 42-44a

42 It is the same with the resurrection of the dead. 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.

DISCUSS

In what ways will our bodies be different at our resurrection?

Present body	Future body
perishable	imperishable
dishonor	glory
weakness	power
natural	spiritual

Does this sound like a gas, a wisp, a cloud, a ghost, an invisible presence, a bodiless soul?

READ 15:44b-46

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living person”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and then the spiritual.

DISCUSS

Are there natural persons without a body? (No.) So, will we be spiritual persons without a body?

- There are two kinds of body: a natural (psychikos) body, and a spiritual (pneumatikos) body. Both are bodies.
- The contrast is not between physicality and spirituality, but between bodies suited for natural life and for everlasting life.

When the risen Christ became a “life-giving Spirit”, did he lose his human body?

- No. His natural body became a spiritual body.

READ 15:47-49

47 The first man is from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 Like the one made of dust, so too are those made of dust, and like the one from heaven, so too those who are heavenly. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, [we shall] also bear the image of the man of heaven.

DISCUSS

We are those made of dust, sure, but who are the heavenly?

- They are we who shall become the heavenly ones at our resurrection.

What does “image” mean? Do we only look like Adam? Will we only look like Jesus?

- A living “image” is the visible aspect of a person’s reality. (Even an idol is a visible place where a real spirit visits.)

READ 15:50

50 Now this is what I am saying, brothers and sisters: Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

DISCUSS

Explain in other words why we must receive a new kind of body, and not just have our present one come back to life.

- We would be as fish out of the water.
- We would dread having to die again.
- We would live for puny pleasures instead of everlasting glory.
- We would not be capable of ruling over nations, planets and galaxies.

READ 15:51-53

51 Listen, I will tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the blinking of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

DISCUSS

What is a “mystery” in biblical terms?

- A truth that was formerly not known and has now been revealed.

What is the “last trumpet”? Theories:

- A real loud noise, as that of a trumpet.
- A metaphor meaning ‘the time has come’.
- A day in the Hebrew calendar of festivals.
- The seventh trumpet of the Apocalypse.

Which body will be(come) immortal?

- This mortal body will become new.

READ 15:54-57

54 Now when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will happen,

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

55 “Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

DISCUSS

Does the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) offer any hope of an afterlife?

- Isaiah 25:8
- Hosea 13:14

What does God want from us who have this victory over death?

- Thanks

READ 15:58

58 So then, dear brothers and sisters, be firm. Do not be moved! Always be outstanding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

DISCUSS

How, then, shall we live?

- Never be dissuaded from Jesus’ promise to raise us back to life to dwell with him forever.

When are we too old or too poor to obey Jesus’ commandments?

- Never

What will we lose upon our bodily death?

- Nothing