

Sermon: 1 Cor 15:35-58 Dead Men Walking

Having firmly established that the resurrection of the the dead Paul anticipates a very important question which he poses in two different ways: “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” (vs 36)

- Much has been made of the tone with which we should read these questions. Should we read them as snarky and sarcastic or should they be read as inquisitive and sincere?
 - I think both are legitimate options.
 - For some who are seeking to maintain that there is no resurrection they may pose this question in a rhetorical sense reasoning that it is not possible to know the answer and therefore posing a legitimate challenge to Paul's dogmatic stance that the dead are indeed raised from the dead
 - For others who are convinced of the truth which Paul has presented this question may be the natural follow up
 - Paul's response to this question indicates that regardless of the manner in which the question was asked it was asked out of ignorance and without much thought. He then proceeded to give three examples from everyday life which should be obvious when it comes to answering this question
- 1. A Picture from Agriculture Vs. 37-38
 - a. A seed or a kernel that is planted does not come up looking like it did
 - i. It sheds its old body and a new body comes up in its place.
- 2. A picture from Biology vs 39
 - a. Look around at the flesh of living things, they are all different and yet they are all recognizable as flesh.
 - i. If you have any carnivorous appetite then you are aware of the varieties of meat and how they are all different and yet all are meat
 - 1. Chicken differs from beef which differs from lamb which differs from pork which differs from tuna which differs from salmon . . .
- 3. A picture from Astronomy vs 40-41
 - a. Look at the world and compare it to the heavenly bodies and if you do you will realize that there is an earth, a sun, a moon, planets and stars and they're all different though they are very much the same
- 4. The Picture of Christ vs 42-49
 - a. There is a similarity between the body we have and the body we will receive when we are raised.
 - b. Now We have a body like Adam the first man the man of dust or of the earth but because of the new birth through the Spirit we will rise with a new body that is like the second Adam, Jesus.
 - i. We have some indication as to what Jesus body was like
 - 1. John 20:14-17 Jesus standing, speaking, and able to be touched
 - 2. John 20:19-23 Jesus appears in a locked room, but he shows them his hands and side, and he breaths
 - 3. John 21 Jesus speaking, cooking and serving food

4. Luke 24:13ff Jesus walking and talking, he is at table with them, he departs out of their midst,
 5. Luke 24:36ff Jesus appears to the disciples and they are startled *as if they had seen a spirit* and Jesus insists they touch him and reasons with them that a spirit does not have flesh and bones as I have. Then he eats fish before them
 6. Luke 24:50ff Jesus is carried up into heaven in their sight
 7. Matthew 28:9 Jesus appears to the women at the tomb and they take hold of his feet and worship
- ii. This is the type of body you will receive upon your being raised from the dead - a body that is like your old body, similar but totally new and different because it is not a earthly body it is heavenly one.
5. The Picture of your new body Vs 50-57
 - a. Your new body is the final evidence of Christs victory of sin and death
 - i. 1 Cor 13:12 - remember that Paul has already pointed out that now we see things dimly, like looking through a darkened glass, but shall see face to face
 1. Your resurrection body will allow you to stand in the presence of Almighty God and the Risen Lamb and behold his glory with perfect clarity and it will be the final and eternal proof that Jesus has risen victorious over death
6. Application:
 - a. In light of all these things, because there is a resurrection and because it gives you hope:
 - i. Be Steadfast
 1. Seated or planted on the truth of the resurrection
 - ii. Immovable
 1. Don't waver in your conviction that the dead will be raised
 - iii. Always abounding in the work of the lord
 1. This work is to raise people to new life
 - a. This means you are to be abounding in evangelism and discipleship
 - iv. Your work will produce fruit because it is God's work in you