



Who wants to live forever?

Today's Scripture Text

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

Sermon Points

Paul addressed a question that the Corinthians were asking about how the dead would be raised, and in what kind of body would they be raised. As the idea of a resurrection body was totally new to their worldview, the idea – naturally - was perplexing to them.

#1 We currently live with a temporary mortality

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-41

Our bodies are mortal and temporary but they are also extremely valuable. Our flesh is fallen and yet it is not futile. In this text, Paul calls us to a tension regarding our bodies. He wants us to keep in mind that they are:

1. Perishable – we are all going to die. No matter how strong we are now, we all still have a shelf-life.
2. Dishonorable – since the fall, much of our physical body is associated with shame. For so many people, even just the appearance of their own bodies cause them a sense of shame, especially in comparison to others.
3. Weak – even the strong have physical limitations. Some of us are just born physically weaker, which causes huge frustration. Even the strongest are still susceptible to illness or physical problems, and we all eventually age and weaken. There is no way we can prevent the aging process from happening. Even the best attempts at best can slow it down, or mask its appearance, but we cannot stop the process entirely.
4. Natural – our bodies are bound by the laws of nature and the restrictions that come with that.



Though fallen, God designed our bodies brilliantly, with a purpose in mind, and therefore we should take care of them excellently. We cannot escape the fact that they will eventually wear down and die, but in that death, the seed is sown for the next life.

In order for these corruptible bodies to pass away, they have to die, so that they can make way for the resurrection bodies that Christ died to give us.

- ❖ How should we, as believers, view our earthly bodies and why?
- ❖ Which of the 4 fallen areas do you identify with at this stage of your life and why? (i.e. perishable, dishonorable, weak or natural.)
- ❖ Why is it still important to treat our bodies with the utmost care, even though they will all waste away eventually?
- ❖ Why does Paul refer to our fallen bodies as “seeds”?

#2. We will one day live with a permanent immortality

- Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-5:10 & 1 Corinthians 15:42-49

Even though we will die sooner or later, as believers, we live for God in everything we do because we will be raised to life and be with Christ forever. Though our bodies are like Adam's, which are perishable, dishonorable, weak and natural, they will not always be that way. When we are raised to new life, our bodies will be like Christ's, which is imperishable, honorable, strong and supernatural.

We tend to get focused on there here and now, which is foolish, because our lives on earth are so brief in comparison to the eternal life we are going to live with Christ. It makes sense to invest in the kingdom to come, and not to strive for temporary pleasure that is only going to pass away.

- ❖ Why is it so difficult for us to focus on the eternal reality, rather than on the here and now?
- ❖ What one thing in your life are you striving for, and putting far too much energy into, that will count for nothing in eternity?
- ❖ Which of the 4 Christ-like attributes of the resurrection body are you most looking forward to and why? (i.e. imperishable, honorable, strong or supernatural).



#3. Live ready for the coming of our eternally immortal king

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Paul lived during very difficult times. He was persecuted for his faith, and he knew he could die at any time at the hands of the Romans. But he also lived with a sense of urgency, because he knew Jesus could come back for the church at any time.

He lived as though it would happen in his lifetime, and so he lived and died for making the gospel known. If he died while living for Christ, or if Christ returned while he was alive, he knew that either way, he would receive his resurrection body and that he would begin his eternal life in an instant.

Many of us have tasted the sting of death, which reminds us that it is coming, and that it does not wait for anyone. This life is short and our struggles with the flesh are real. But all of it will end. The question for us remains: *how will we live our lives in light of the fact that the next life is coming soon?*

Our answer should be that we will be:

- steadfast in faith
 - immovable in our destiny
 - abounding in God's work
 - confident and certain in our future reward
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- ❖ Why is it important to be immovable in our faith?
 - ❖ Why is it important for us to be abounding in God's work until the day we die?
 - ❖ If you knew for sure that Christ was coming back in 3 years' time, what about your life and your choices would you change immediately and why?

This week's take-away:

Q. What one thing about this week's message does God want you to take on board and apply faithfully?