



Resurrection of the Body

A Resurrection emphasis in First Corinthians

Job 19:25-27 1 Cor 15 selected verses John 5:19-29a

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YOUR BODY IS COMPLICATED!

The study of the human body involves **anatomy** and **physiology**. Your body is a complicated and intricate system of cells, muscles, bones, and organs that all work together; Scripture teaches us that your body was “**knit together**” by God as He fearfully and wonderfully created you. There are all kinds of fascinating details about our bodies¹

- You over 200 bones and around 600 muscles
- There are 230 joints in your body
- Adults have 32 teeth
- Your body is 70% water.
- You blink your eyes about 20,000 times a day.
- Your heart beats close to 100,000 times a day.
- You use 14 muscles to smile and 43 to frown.
- The strongest muscle in your body is located in your jaw.

YOUR BODY IS COMPLICATED! Your body has been created by God! **Your body is important!** Just think of some of the various ways the Bible talks about human bodies:

Belong to the Lord	United to the Lord	Washed in Holy Baptism
Hairs on head counted	Temple of Holy Spirit	Jesus had a body
Jesus healed bodies	Parousia: Christ's Body	Body/Blood in HC

¹ These facts were found at this website: <http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0768632.html>

Your body is important! God the Father created you with both *a body and a soul*; Christ redeemed *your body and your soul*; and the Holy Spirit sanctifies both *your body and your soul*. You are a human being²; a *body and soul* that God created it, redeemed it, and sanctified!

One of the key promises of Easter is that God promises to raise your body from the dead on the Last Day! Just as Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, *so too* you will rise from the dead on the Last Day! The Holy Christian Church confesses this when we say that we believe in the *resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting!* The phrase “resurrection of the dead” means our dead bodies; our flesh will live again, even after we die!

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God Job 19:25-26

Listen, I tell you a mystery! We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

[Jesus said,] “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice *and come out!* John 5:28-29

The Resurrection of your body will happen on the Last Day when Jesus returns. It will be your personal Easter! It is one of the gifts of salvation that the crucified and risen Savior freely gives to you! ***Because Jesus rose from the dead, so too, you will rise from the dead!*** What a blessing of salvation!

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

Jesus’ resurrection from the dead is the guarantee that you will rise from the dead on the Last Day. Jesus was first (*the “firstfruits”*) on Easter Sunday; and then when He returns on the Last Day, your body will rise from the dead! That is God’s promise to you!

Just as God has gave you spiritual life and eternal life on your Baptism Day; so too on the Last Day, God will give you Resurrection life as He raises your body from the dead and you will live in Heaven forever in both body and soul!

² Animals have bodies only; Angels are spirits only. Humans have both a body and a soul; and they are the ones that God sent His Son to redeem from sin and guilt, and to give them eternal life.

The New Testament assures us that God has the power to do this! Just as He has created various and different kinds of “bodies” in Creation --- like fish, birds, giraffes, and snakes; so too He will create your resurrected body! Just as God has created the heavenly bodies ... sun, moon, and all kinds of stars, so too He will create your resurrected body that will live forever in Heaven!

St. Paul uses the analogy of a seed that is planted into the ground. The seed rises out of the ground something much better than what was planted! So too our bodies, which die and are buried in weakness, disease, and sin will rise to something much better than they are now! Our heavenly bodies will have **NO SIN** nor weakness nor disease! The Bible uses words like “*spiritual, imperishable, immortal, glorious, and powerful*” to describe our resurrected bodies!

One of the images of our death and resurrection is that our **bodies** “*sleep*” in death and Christ will “awake” them on the Last Day³. It is an image to indicate the *peace* that a Christian has through faith in Christ; as well as the promise of “*waking up*” on the Last Day.

In fact, did you know that the word “cemetery” means “sleeping chamber”?

Death is pictured as your *body sleeping*; while your soul is in Heaven with Christ; the Last Day is pictured as God “*waking up your body*” and glorifying it to live forever in Heaven!

Your body is important! God promises to raise it from the dead on the Last Day just like Jesus rose from the dead on Easter morning! There are at least four practical things that are associated with the Resurrection of the Dead.

1. The promise of the Resurrection of the Dead is your “HOPE”. Christian Hope is our confident faith and trust in God’s promise of the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting. **Hope gets us through difficult times; it is an anchor for our souls.**

The promise of the Resurrection of the Dead allows you to patiently endure bodily difficulties that you are facing now. No matter how much pain and suffering you are in, no matter what disease you are battling, no matter how much your body is affected by the brokenness of sin, it is only temporary. On the Last Day, you will have a perfect, sinless,

³ **THIS IS NOT SOUL SLEEP**, we are talking about our bodies here. Soul sleep is the false teaching that the soul of a dead person exists in a state of sleep. Scripture does not speak of soul sleep, but of souls after death being in the presence of Christ. (Phil 1:21ff). **When we speak of the dead as sleeping, this refers only to the body.** The Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions reject the teaching that the soul “sleeps” between death and the resurrection in such a way that it is not conscious of bliss.

glorified body without any disease or pain. ***This is our hope!*** Hope gets us through difficult times; it is an anchor for our souls.

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. Romans 8:18-25

This is the Christian HOPE: confident faith in the resurrection of the dead through Jesus the Risen Savior! ***This hope, this promise, of the Resurrection of the Dead allows you to focus beyond the present pain and to the joys of Heaven.*** The Promise of the Resurrection of the Body strengthens you to patiently endure as you trust in God's Word and look forward to your personal Resurrection from the Dead on the last day!

2. The Resurrection of the Dead means that we will see our loved ones who have died in Christ on the Last Day. One of the images of Heaven is a family reunion. The resurrection of the dead is the basis of that. The tears and grief of death still hurt, but we know that we will see our loved ones again --- **IN THEIR BODIES!** --- on the Last Day!

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The promise of the resurrection of the dead on the Last Day means that you will see your loved ones, in their sinless, glorified bodies, again on the Last Day!

3. The Resurrection of the dead teaches us ***the value of our bodies now.*** God has created your body; it is sacred and holy. You have a responsibility to be a good steward of your body, it is a gift that God has given to you.

4. The Hope of the Resurrection is a key part of your witness to the world! *Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope that is in you.* **HOPE** is noticeable, especially in discussions about pain and suffering, death and dying. Use your **HOPE**, your confident faith in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting in the Lord Jesus Christ, to guide you as you witness to others; as you share your faith! Hope is powerful; it is a bright light; it is a bold witness to Christ!

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead teaches us that ***your body is important*** --- God created it, He redeemed it, He sanctified it, and on the Last Day, He will raise it from the dead. ***Just as Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, so too your body will rise from the dead on the Last Day!!*** Amen!

Lord Jesus, you have risen from the dead and have given us faith to know and believe it. Help us to understand all that your Resurrection means for us; including the hope of our own resurrection from the dead on the Last Day. Empower us to bear witness to anyone who asks about the hope we have in You. We thank you for our hope and confidence; and we eagerly look forward to our glorified bodies and being with you in the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen!

1 Corinthians 15: 12-23; 35-44; 51-57

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20 But Christ has indeed 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 comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” 36 How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38 But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. 39 Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. 40 There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. 41 The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. 42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised 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. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “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! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 5:19-29a

Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. 21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. 22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. 24 “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. 25 Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. 28 “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and come out!

Job 19:25-27

25 I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. 26 And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; 27 I myself will see him with my own eyes--I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!