

1st Corinthians: Be A Believer

Awake to Righteousness

1st Corinthians 15:29-58

1st Corinthians Refresher

- Written by Paul to the church in Corinth - Isthmus of Greece
- **“To live like a Corinthian”** untethered lifestyle (in contrast to the life of the Spirit, one of Self-control)
- Corrective letters
- **I do not want you to be ignorant: Israel, Gifts, Return**

Previously

- The Body, The Gifts of the Spirit, Godly Love
- Moreover...the Gospel - Good News
- Paul's conversion and motivation to work harder than anyone else - the grace given to him
- The importance & implications of the Resurrection - if Christ didn't rise...but He did!
- Adam sinned and death entered, Christ became sin and defeated death
- Right living in light of the Resurrection
- Death is done - the last enemy

[Pray]

:29

Baptism for the dead - a pagan practice, not something the Bible teaches - we make our decisions in our own live

[1Pe 3:21-22 NKJV] 21 There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

The act doesn't save us - it's proof that we've identified with Jesus' resurrection
Death, under the water, rising to life again, out of the water

Paul is using this practice that even unbelievers believe in life after death

Resurrection, and the reality of it, should not be something we're ignorant of
It's the foundation of our faith!

I think we talk about it, but how much does it actually affect the American church? Our daily lives?

:30-33

**Paul puts his life in jeopardy every day, every hour he says!
If the resurrection wasn't real, why would he risk his life?**

Criticism of the Pope Mobile - for the guy claiming to be in charge, closest to Jesus, he seems awfully afraid of death

Paul says "I DIE DAILY"

The RESURRECTION - knowing that our true life is in Christ, in the next life, should cause us to not cling to much to this one.

[Phi 1:21 NKJV] 21 For to me, to live [is] Christ, and to die [is] gain.

The resurrection should encourage right living now - dying to our own desires, living for God's desires. Because we are resurrected!

Body, Soul, Spirit - before Christ, Spirit dead

There's two distinct classes of people
those living for this life, and those living for the next one

[2Co 6:14-16 NKJV] 14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among [them]. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

**Paul pivots into "evil company corrupts good habits"
But it's all related to the resurrection**

If this life is all there is, why not do whatever you want? It's all meaningless, you'll die and there will be no record and no judgment and no memory

But this life isn't all there is. And we all know it deep down. That's why there's such misery, because we're meant for more.

*We weren't created to live under the weight of sin and death -
and that's why the world is miserable - it pursues it thinking it'll find life*

[Mat 6:22-23 NKJV] 22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great [is] that darkness!

We can either be YOLO or HALO

*The people we hang around with, have fellowship with is of **UTMOST IMPORTANCE**
Doesn't mean we don't have unbelieving friends, or we don't eat with sinners or coworkers or what have you...but the closest confidants, the people we truly let our guard down around, should and need to be believers - those who build us up in the things of God.*

Relationships - Paul / Barnabus, Paul / Timothy

Evangelistic relationships, ministry relationships

Realizing that certain relationships I wish could be better, are really relegated to ministering to that person. Not expecting anything of them for me, I'm there for them

But we have to be careful - easier to be pulled into sin than it is to pull someone out

:34

Awake to righteousness

Death / sleep - resurrection / awake

Jesus and little girl

Awake

- to return to one's self from drunkenness, become sober
- metaph. to return to soberness of mind

Hopefully you don't remember what it was like to come around the next day

What was I thinking? What did I do? Who did I get involved with?

It can be that way after sin - after being tempted, falling into sin - when the sin is done, you come to your senses and think why did I do that? Regret.

This world is not of a sober mind

The world will say you're in a cult for being responsible, dressing modestly, being married, having kids, etc. etc. But they're the ones in a cult, unable to explain the benefits of their actions, wanting to destroy anyone who doesn't approve of their lifestyle, etc.

As Christians, we are to be sober - not just from alcohol and drugs and wild living (prodigal son), but spiritually sober

[1Th 5:1-10 NKJV] 1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others [do], but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and [as] a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

[1Ti 3:2 NKJV] 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;

[Tit 1:8 NKJV] 8 but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,

[Tit 2:2, 6 NKJV] 2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; ... 6 Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded,

[1Pe 1:13 NKJV] 13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest [your] hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

[1Pe 5:8 NKJV] 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

**ONE DAY WE WILL NOT WAKE UP HERE AND WE WILL WAKE UP THERE
MAY IT BE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Some do not have the knowledge of God - I speak this to your shame.

There were some within the Corinthian church who did not think soberly

Did not act soberly

Were probably even actually drunk

And because of this - were willfully ignorant of the things of God

And as believers - that is shameful

Drunk on false teaching

Drunk on loose living

Drunk on expecting God to do things our way

It's as if the church has become afraid of righteousness

Of doing things the right way.

Of even saying there's a right way and a wrong way to live.

We're not to "judge" (condemn) but we are to judge (discern and differentiate) between right and wrong.

We of all people should have a strong, firm and sober answer for what is right and what is wrong - especially in the world we live in.

:35-41

What body? Buried, cremated, eaten by a shark, blown up in a war...God doesn't need an intact specimen to work with. He made the very atoms that make up everything after all...

Oh foolish one! Our study in Proverbs

The mark of a fool is asking the wrong questions!

The answer is even given examples in creation.

Seeds! (something we're probably disconnected from in our modern life)

Animals

Fish

Planets!

:42-49

They all exist in the same creation but are distinct and different.

So is the resurrected body. Different. Distinct. Holy.

Able to eat

Able to appear at will, walk through walls

Able to live forever - free from death

Even our mortal body - look at how strong some people are, how genius others are, how musical others are - with basically the same meat machine, soul space suit

Remember - your body is mortal, your spirit is immortal - either to eternal death or to eternal life.

Sown in corruption - death, rotting, in the ground

Think of your body planted in the ground

Costco getting all the springtime soil and planters out

This life, sowed in struggle, trial and ultimately death - but an opportunity to bear eternal fruit

Raised in incorruption - holy, new, free from death and rot

The things we grow in this life spiritually cannot die, will live forever. Will inherit a heavenly form.

**It's what you actually look like - not that aging body you see in the mirror
The spiritual being inside you, being transformed into the image of Christ**

This body - made from dust, earthly "materials"
Resurrected body - made from heavenly "materials"
Similar in appearance - couldn't be farther apart in capability

**Another way to look at those two classes of people
Those taking after their earthly father - Adam
Those taking after their heavenly father - Jesus**

We are made in the image of God in the flesh
We must be remade into the image of God in the spirit, by the Spirit.

It's not words, or stickers, or mantras, or self-righteous behavior
It's a life transformed. Living from, getting sustenance from heavenly things over earthly things.

Israel grew tired of manna - the bread from heaven
Jerusalem rejected Jesus - Living water
The world has grown weary of His Word - the spiritual food we need

It's no wonder the world is rotting quickly, dying, disfiguring itself into the grave
Euthanasia because she's bored

We the church, should show the world true health - spiritual health

That should be our health craze - eating the Word of God, a steady diet of feeding our Spirit,
drinking the Living Water, celebrating death and atonement and the resurrected life in
communion

[Stop here?]

:50-58

Corruption Cannot inherit incorruption

Physical bodies cannot live in eternity

*Paul, John, Isaiah and others - all saw heaven, but couldn't stay there
All fell down as dead*

[Gal 5:16-25 NKJV] 16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21

envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told [you] in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those [who are] Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

[Eph 5:5-7 NKJV] 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

We all shall be changed

Whether we die or are raptured or alive at the second coming - we must be changed

Every knee shall bow - the question is is it in this life or the next?

Don't you want to be ready? As a bride adorned? Wearing our wedding garments?

Matthew 22 Jesus talks about the wedding feast - someone cast out without the right attire

Our righteousness doesn't clothe us - Jesus does with a new body, robes of His righteousness

But the point is - we'll need a new body for where we're going

We can't take this one with us (no hearse's with uhauls)

This is the death of death

The new body is not subject to it and the limitations of it

If our earthly bodies are so amazing, and would have been even more amazing in the past, especially in the garden, how much more so our heavenly bodies

Guy infusing blood to try and live longer - if he only trusted in Jesus' blood for eternal life!

O death where is your sting?

O hades where is your victory?

a sting, as that of bees, scorpions, locusts. *Since animals wound by their sting and even cause death, Paul attributes death, personified as a sting, i.e. a deadly weapon an iron goad, for urging on oxen, horses and other beasts of burden hence the proverb, "to kick against the goad", i.e. to offer vain and perilous or ruinous resistance*

Revelation talks about a sting that makes everyone want to die, but they can't...

God uses death, and the sting of it - whether directly or indirectly - or the fear of it - to get our attention. To get us to finally pay attention and give our lives to him.

But most people will wait too long, and it'll be too late

The victory of hell is defeated - we have victory in Jesus

Satan loses, we know this, it's already happened at the cross, he never had a chance

But we lose when we end up in Hell.

God only wants victory for us. There's no second place. It's either Victory or Death.

[1Co 15:58 NKJV] 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Therefore? WHAT IS IT THERE FOR?

Because of all of this - and indeed, because of all of this letter

Be steadfast

sitting, sedentary

firm, immovable, steadfast

[Eph 2:6 NKJV] 6 and raised [us] up together, and made [us] sit together in the heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus,

Immovable

not to be moved from its place, unmoved

metaph. firmly persistent

[Act 20:24 NKJV] 24 "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

This is the life of a believer - To Be A Believer

Not stubborn in our own ways

Being constantly changed by God towards the things of God and ultimately heaven

With the resurrection in sight

Living for the next life - not moved from that pursuit by the problems of this life

If anything, the problems in this life, the persecutions set us more steadfast in our pursuit of the next one - because we can't hang on to this one

Always abounding in the work of the Lord

Seek things to do for His kingdom - even at the expense of your own

It's not in vain

That's a comfort, that's a strength to keep going. The resurrection. The new body. The new kingdom. It really puts things in perspective.

Consider the things going on in our lives right now - and our reactions to them. Our handling of them. Have we been handling them God's way? Have we even asked him what he's thought? What His solutions are? Are we so worried about tomorrow we are unwilling to serve Him today, or even enjoy today?

Awake to Righteousness...and seek to live the resurrected life!