

Sermon Notes / 1 Corinthians 15:35-58



A. You are a Kernel (v.35-37)

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.

1. Creation Illustrates New Life all the Time!

A. You are a Kernel (v.35-37)

2. It's a Good Thing When the Seed Dies!!

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B. God Created Variety (v.38-41)

³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

³⁹ For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰ There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

C. You will Be Better (v.42-49)

⁴² So is it 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.

Earthly Bodies- "sown"	Heavenly Bodies- "raised"
-Perishable	-Imperishable
-Dishonor	-Glory

-Weakness	-Power
-Natural body- Adam/living	-Spiritual body- Jesus/life-giving

C. You will Be Better (v.42-49)

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**. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”, the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, **we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.**

C. You will Be Better (v.42-49)

⁴⁹ ... we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Big Idea: Get Excited about Your Actual Life!

D. The Change will Happen Fast (v.50-52)

⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² **in a moment**, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

E. It will be a Great Triumph (54-57)

⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

E. It will be a Great Triumph (54-57)

⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory? O death, where 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.

Big Idea: Get Excited about Your Actual Life!

F. What You Do Now Matters (58)

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

Daniel 12:2-3

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. **3** And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Study Guide / 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION

1 CORINTHIANS

Introduction

Discuss our obsession with the here and now. Share evidence you see that people tend to live for this life only.

1. You are a Kernel! Read 1 Cor. 15:35-37

Why do you think Paul uses such harsh language (“foolish”)?

What do you think of the arguments that creation illustrates new life all the time, and that it is a good thing for the seed to die. How does reshaping your thinking to the idea of being a “kernel” change the way you live today?

2. It will be Better! Read 1 Cor. 15:38-49

Discuss the concept that God has created variety for a purpose. Share your observations of the differences between our earthly bodies and our heavenly bodies. How does it make you feel that your new body will be so much better? According to v. 49, our new body will be like Jesus’ resurrected body. What was that like? What excites you about that?

3. It will be a Great Triumph! Read 1 Cor. 15:50-57

Discuss the imminency of the “trumpet sound”! How does that make you live differently? Discuss the triumph that Christ has handed to those who are born again. What does it mean for you to live in this way (v.57), “thanks be to Christ...”

4. What you Do Now Matters! Read 1 Cor. 15:58

How does this verse inspire you, when:

...things don’t go your way?

...tragedy strikes?

...you realize you have placed too much of your identity in your achievements?

Application

Spend a few moments in silent prayer and reflection on the following:

What are some things you want to start doing, stop doing, or continue doing based on the reminder that your actual life is yet to come?

