

# 1 CORINTHIANS 15:13-20 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## WHAT IF JESUS DIDN'T RISE AGAIN? - [\(SERMON MP3\)](#)

Did you hear any talk about Easter on any media outlet this past week? Did any of them mention the resurrection of Christ?

- How much of a danger is there of losing the significance of Christ's resurrection in our culture?
  
- When did the reality of the resurrection of Christ first impact you?
  
- Have you ever watched the celebration that takes place on New Year's Eve when the ball drops in Time's Square at midnight? What are they celebrating? How does this compare with our celebration of the most significant event in history, the resurrection of Christ? Why don't we get this excited on Easter? What needs to change in us to increase our excitement about the resurrection?
  
- How would you explain Easter to someone who asked you, "What's Easter all about anyway?"

According to 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, what are the key elements of the Gospel?

- Why would "brothers" need to be reminded of the Gospel?
  
- What is the relationship between people's salvation and their holding firm to the word of the Bible? Is standing firm in the faith and holding fast to it a necessary condition for ultimate salvation? If so, how is this not like earning salvation?

Why do you think some people have a problem with the concept of Jesus' physical resurrection? Do you ever think that your Christianity is grounded in "blind faith?"

- Do you have confidence that your faith is ground in verifiable facts? Why or Why not? What type of proof is offered for the resurrection of Jesus in 1Corinthians 15?
  
- What kind of evidence is there for the resurrection?

According to 1Corinthians 15:14-19, if Christ did not rise from the dead, what would it mean? What would be some implications of a Christ who died and stayed dead?

**Why do you think some people have a problem with the concept of Jesus' physical resurrection? Do you ever think that your Christianity is grounded in "blind faith?"**

- Do you have confidence that your faith is ground in verifiable facts? Why or Why not? What type of proof is offered for the resurrection of Jesus in 1Corinthians 15?
  
- What kind of evidence is there for the resurrection?

**What does Paul refer to when he speaks of “baptism for the dead” in 1Corinthians 15:29?**

- How does your understanding of the passage correlate with other texts about baptism and/or the Gospel?
  
- Is this referring to some form of vicarious act for achieving postmortem salvation? Why or why not?

**According to 1 Corinthians 15:50-58, what are some specific ways that the resurrection gives us hope?**

- Read Phil. 3:8-12. How is the power of the resurrection work in you today?
  
- Read Col. 3:1. How should the resurrection impact your thoughts?

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

Theologian Wolfhart Pannenberg said, “**The evidence for Jesus' resurrection is so strong that nobody would question it except for two things:** First, it is a very unusual event. And second, if you believe it happened, you have to change the way you live.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?

**What did Jesus' resurrection accomplish for us? (see: Rom. 5:10; 6:1-14; 8:11; 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 15:12-22; Eph. 1:18-21; Phil. 3:10-11).** What difference does Jesus' resurrection make to your life and the way you respond to your circumstances? How does He affect your day-to-day life?

**Read Heb. 2:14-15. Though death is the most certain thing in life, why do you think people avoid talking about it?** How have you seen the fear of death enslave people? Have you ever felt enslaved by the fear of death? How can meditations on the resurrection help people who fear death?