

# O Glorious Day! (Part 2)

1 John 3:2, 1 Corinthians 15, others

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Easter is often called Resurrection Sunday because it celebrates the resurrection of Christ. The resurrection of Jesus is the most essential doctrine in Christianity next to who He is, our Creator-God who took on a human body to pay our sin penalty. If the resurrection of Jesus didn't happen, we'd have no hope of eternal life. But He did, and that is why we are all here today remembering what it means for us.

The traditional Easter message generally makes the point that Jesus rose from the grave thus proving He was who He claimed to be, God in the flesh. But since we all know that very well, I'd like this evening to focus on what the resurrection of Christ has to say about our own resurrection.

1 John 3:2 – *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

The body Jesus took on as a result of His resurrection is like the body we can look forward to when we're resurrected.

Our resurrection will happen when our Bridegroom Jesus returns for His bride, the church. That is why all Christians look forward to the return of Christ, it is when we receive our resurrected bodies. Scripture reveals that there will be a generation of Christians who are resurrected while still alive in our mortal bodies. This is called the rapture of the church and we don't know when that will happen so we need to just live ready, looking for His appearing to us. While every generation of Christians have lived expecting to be raptured to heaven, none have seen the convergence of signs indicating that we really are the generation who will not experience death.

1 Corinthians 15 refers to the resurrection of Jesus as the firstfruits of all His followers.

1 Corinthians 15:22-23 – *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.*

The term "firstfruits" will be recognized by the Jews as referring to the Feast of Firstfruits where the first of their Spring harvest is sacrificed to the Lord to guarantee that the general harvest would be fruitful. Jesus was the ultimate fulfillment of the Feast of Firstfruits when He rose from the dead. Indeed, He rose from the dead on the very day the Jews observed the Feast of Firstfruits. And this followed His death on the cross at the very time the Jews were slaughtering their Passover lambs thus fulfilling the Feast of Passover. Also, the fact that Jesus lived a sinless life fulfilled the Feast of Unleavened Bread which is generally celebrated with Passover.

The resurrection of Jesus guarantees our resurrection. Because Jesus overcame the grave, we will overcome the grave. Since Jesus was the firstfruits of the resurrection, this establishes a pattern that reveals a lot of amazing details about what our resurrected bodies will be like.

So, with this brief introduction, there are 14 specific observations about our resurrected bodies we can find in the Gospels, 1 Corinthians 15, and Revelation chapters 21 & 22. Don't worry, I'll go through them pretty fast...

(1) Our resurrected bodies will be physical... When Jesus appeared to His disciples, He said:

Luke 24:39 – *Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.*

We will have physical bodies like we have now. We will not be disembodied spirits floating around in some ethereal spirit world alien to our mortal experience.

One aspect of our being made in the image of God is that we are a triunity.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 – *may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

As God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we are spirit, soul and body. And we'll always be spirit, soul and body. People often use the terms spirit and soul interchangeably but the Bible makes a distinction:

Hebrews 4:12 – *the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

Our human spirits are that part of us that has the capacity to commune with God when we are born again. As Romans 8:16 says, *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”* Our souls are our intellect, the seat of our emotions, and our personality. The Spirits of Christians have already been resurrected as a guarantee of our future bodily resurrection.

Ephesians 1:13-14 – *having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession*

Our mortal souls still have a sin nature and it wars against our born-again spirits. But our souls will be resurrected when our bodies are resurrected... I'll expand on that later.

(2) Our resurrected bodies will have the capacity to eat food... continuing with the appearance of Jesus to His disciples in Luke:

Luke 24:41-43 – *But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” So, they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence.*

Why did Jesus eat in their presence? To show us that we will continue to enjoy food in our resurrected bodies. I take it that we will not need to eat since our resurrected bodies will not die, but we will still have the pleasure of enjoying food as we do now. Indeed, we will feast at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb per Revelation 19:9.

(3) Our resurrected bodies will not be confined by normal special barriers...

John 20:19 – *Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.”*

Notice that Jesus did not enter through the shut doors... He just materialized in their midst. Well sure you say, He is also God and He can do anything. But Jesus didn't need to establish His credentials as God in the flesh, the disciples already knew that. And if they had any doubt about that, His resurrection cleared that up. Thomas certainly recognized the deity of Jesus when He saw Him resurrected exclaiming, *“My Lord*

*and my God”* in John 20:28. So, everything Jesus did when He appeared to people after He was resurrected was to show us what our resurrected bodies would be like. That is why He ate food after He was resurrected, to show us we too would eat food in our resurrected bodies.

(4) Our resurrected bodies will have the capacity to fly... When the resurrected Jesus returned to heaven, He didn't just disappear, He ascended while the disciples watched...

Acts 1:9 – *Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*

Again, that ascension was for our benefit... not only will we be able to materialize where ever we want, it looks like we'll be able to fly as well. This ability to fly is probably related to our capacity to be in the spiritual domain which I'll elaborate on later. Have you had dreams where you could fly? I have... this will be a reality in our resurrected bodies. Superman will have nothing on us.

(5) We will not procreate with our resurrected bodies... a Sadducee who did not believe in life after death tried to trip up Jesus with a question involving a convoluted scenario about who a woman would be married to in heaven after having been married and widowed multiple times. Jesus responded:

Matthew 22:30 – *in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven*

As angels do not procreate nor do they marry, we will not be married in heaven. I guess it is kind of obvious that angels would not marry because unlike what the popular culture would have us believe, the Bible indicates that the angels are all male. Certainly, marriage is an institution God established for us mortals to help each other and multiply humanity. Marriage also gives us a better understanding the relationship we will have with our Savior in eternity. While the exclusive intimacy of marriage helps us in this fallen world, it will not be needed in eternity because of the enhanced relationships we will experience with our Savior and fellow resurrected souls.

Alright, I can read your minds... you are wondering if there will be sex in eternity. Well, the Bible is silent on that but I can tell you that if God removes a worldly pleasure, He will replace it with something even better in eternity.

(6) Our resurrected bodies will have continuity with our mortal bodies with similarities yet will be different... 1 Corinthians 15 has a lot of details about our resurrected bodies likening our mortal bodies as a seed that will be transformed into something amazing...

1 Cor 15:36-38 – *what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain. But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.*

Jesus was not immediately recognized by His disciples but came to know it was Him when they spent time with Him. Cleopas and his companion met Jesus on the road to Emmaus but didn't recognize Him until He broke bread with Him (Luke 24). Mary Magdalene who was the first to see the resurrected Jesus near His empty tomb didn't recognize Him thinking He was the gardener until He spoke her name in John 20. Notice that she immediately recognized Him to be a man calling Him "Sir." So, men will be men and women, women in the resurrection... there will be no transgenders in heaven.

(7) Our resurrected bodies will be powerful...

1 Cor 15:42 says our mortal bodies are *sown in weakness, but raised in power*. Our mortal bodies are weak in comparison to what we'll be like in our resurrected bodies. Does that mean we will have super powers? I don't know but wouldn't be surprised based on the other amazing things God has revealed to us. Certainly, our resurrected bodies will not have the limitations we now have... I expect to be able to lift weights again over my head with my left arm which I can no longer do.

(8) Our resurrected bodies will be sinless... our capacity to sin will be removed with the resurrection of our souls that will happen in conjunction with our bodily resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15: 42-43 – *The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory.*

Our soulful sin nature means we have a corrupted body. But after we're resurrected, we'll be incorruptible. This boggles the mind... it is hard to imagine our being in a state that will not harbor a selfish thought.

Our sin nature means that we are in a dishonorable state before God but when He resurrects us, we will be glorified.

Colossians 3:4 – *When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory*

This glorified state will be our ultimate separation from sin, a total sanctification in every regard.

Philippians 1:6 – *He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ*

It will not be possible for us to sin after we're resurrected.

(9) Our resurrected bodies will be spiritual...

1 Corinthians 15:44 – *It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.*

What in the world is a spiritual body? I take it that we will have the capacity to be in the third heaven, the domain of the angels. We will no longer be confined to the material universe. Based on particle and wave phenomena, physicists have theorized that there has to be another dimension beyond the four dimensions of our physical universe: length, width, depth, and time. This means that the spiritual domain is essentially a Fifth Dimension (cue "Age of Aquarius").

Certainly, we will have the capacity to be in the spiritual dimension because Jesus promised...

John 14:3 – *if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

And Jesus can be anywhere. Indeed, I think this capacity is what enables us to move at will throughout the physical universe, we will be able to transit through the spiritual domain which is superimposed on the physical universe.

(10) Our resurrected bodies will reveal individuality and diversity...

1 Cor 15:41-42 – *There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead.*

The Hubble Telescope has helped astronomers determine that the number of stars in the universe is 200 billion-trillion and all of them have differences. Our God is a God of variety. Even identical twins do not have matching fingerprints and their personalities are different as well. God has gifted us each differently and these differences will be on display in eternity.

(11) Our resurrected bodies will be immortal...

1 Cor 15:53 – *this mortal must put on immortality*  
This is a biggie... our resurrected bodies will not die.  
Revelation 21:4 – *God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away*

No more will our bodies experience pain, sickness, suffering or death. There will be no funerals for people during the Eternal State. Death will become a forgotten thing in eternity. This is what we long for!

(12) Our resurrected bodies will have ethnic diversity... Speaking of the light of Christ in the New Jerusalem where we will live on a new earth...

Revelation 21:24 – *the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light*

The Greek word translated “nations” here is “ethnos” where we get the English word ethnic. The race we have in our mortal bodies will be apparent in our resurrected bodies. God created the races when He scattered people by different languages at the Tower of Babel. This caused the gene pool of different language groups to be limited so that certain racial characteristics emerged. There will be representatives of all the races in heaven because Jesus “*redeemed us to God by [His] blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation*” (Revelation 5:9). In eternity there will be different races but no Critical Race Theory.

(13) Our resurrected bodies will be industrious and productive... Describing our eternal home in the New Jerusalem,

Revelation 21:25 – *Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there)*

What do we do at night? We sleep to rest and rejuvenate our bodies. But this will not be necessary in our resurrected bodies; we will have boundless energy.

The gates of the New Jerusalem will never be shut because we will be busy coming and going. We will not be idle in eternity; we will have work to do. Genesis 2:15 says God put Adam to work in the garden and this was before the fall. Work without the thorns and thistles of the curse will not be drudgery, it will be an outlet for our God-given creativity which is another aspect of our being created in the image of God. In eternity, we will have the time and capacity to pursue the life-long desires God has given us.

(14) Our resurrected bodies will belong to the Lord...

1 Corinthians 6:20 – *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

Our resurrected bodies that belong to the Lord will have both the name of the Father on it along with the new name Jesus will have...

Revelation 3:12 – *He who overcomes... I will write on him the name of My God... And I will write on him My new name.*

The new name of our Lord will be written on the foreheads of our resurrected bodies per Revelation 22:4. And Jesus will also give each of us a new name written on a white stone per Revelation 2:17. I'd imagine that new name He gives us will reflect what our overcoming the world means to Him.

Well, I hope this presentation has given you a better understanding of the amazing things we can look forward to in our resurrected bodies. Given the state of affairs in our world, we will not have long to wait.

Lets, pray...