

“ABSOLUTE VICTORY !”

(1 Corinthians 15:35-58)

April 9, 2017

**Paul has been answering questions from the Corinthian church:
“Did the Resurrection really happen?”**

**Another question arose about the resurrection: “What kind of
body will a resurrected person have?”**

Paul responds by offering 3 comparisons to assist us:

I. SEED vs. FLOWER

**If you want to grow plants or flowers, you wait until the flower
dies and plant its seeds.**

**An apple tree does not look ANYTHING like an apple seed. The
same is true of most plants and flowers. Two points:**

**1) We cannot look at our present bodies and know exactly what the
resurrection body will LOOK like.**

2) Death and resurrection is a transition to a HIGHER life.

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:21

II. NATURAL vs. SPIRITUAL

**While in our natural bodies, we are controlled by our LOWER
nature (corruptible, weak, dishonored): we will be given a NEW
spiritual body (imperishable, and glorious).**

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.
1 Corinthians 15:21–22

Paul relates the first Adam to the ORIGINAL creation and the second Adam to the NEW creation of God through the living Christ.

Earthly man, the dust of the earth, vs. the man from heaven, Jesus Christ who CAME to earth to offer us new life.

Paul REDEFINED the death of a Christian individual in light of Christ's resurrection.

Instead of a tragic loss and defeat, it is a VICTORY.

III. DEFEAT vs. VICTORY

Paul can't help but taunt death:

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

Then he answers the question with the great statement of thanks to God: "He gives us the victory to our Lord Jesus Christ."

Yet, in the midst of a world in which death seemed to rule, he sounded this great note of CELEBRATION of victory.

Christ has DEFEATED death!

Christ is VICTORIOUS!