

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 15:35-49

❖ Day 1

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 44 It is sown a natural body;
 it is raised a spiritual body.

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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.

1. What has Paul’s argument been in 1 Corinthians 15 so far?
2. Describe the transition Paul makes going into this section. It may be helpful to glance ahead to see where he goes from here.
3. What is this section about, broadly speaking?

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4. Where do you think the question in v. 35 comes from? What was one of the Corinthians main hang-ups regarding the resurrection?

5. What “hang-ups” do you have/could you potentially have regarding supernatural, bodily, physical resurrection? Are these “hang-ups” Scripture resolves for you here or elsewhere? What should you do with such hang-ups in light of this passage?

6. How does Paul respond to such a hang-up in v. 36? What does this reveal about the root cause of the problem?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-49 again.

7. What is the illustration Paul uses in vv. 36-39?

8. What does the statement, “What you sow does not come to life unless it dies” reveal about the nature of our bodies now, and our resurrection bodies? What is required in order to have a resurrected body?

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9. How does this truth shape how believers should think about death?

10. Explain the illustration in v. 37. What spiritual reality does this illustration teach?

11. What do vv. 38-39 reveal about various kinds of “bodies”? What do these verses teach about God’s involvement in the type of body we have? How should this comfort us?

12. What transition occurs in v. 40? What is the illustration Paul uses in vv. 40-41?

13. What aspect of “bodies” does Paul shift to talking about?

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14. What kind of transition happens in v. 42?
15. Describe the connection Paul makes between the illustration he used in vv. 36-41 and the instruction he gives in vv. 42-49.
16. List the comparisons Paul makes between a pre-resurrection body, and a post-resurrection body in vv. 42-44.
17. What do these comparisons point to? How should we respond to this truth? In what specific ways does this personally encourage you?

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-49 again.

18. What does Paul move to talking about in vv. 45-49? Who is Paul comparing in these verses? Where have we seen this comparison before?

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19. What does the first part of v. 45 describe?
20. What does it mean when it says, “the last Adam became a life-giving spirit?” What does this certainly not mean?
21. What does Paul stress in v. 46? Why is this important for us to understand?
22. What does Paul highlight in v. 47? Where did Paul make this comparison before? Why is this important for us to understand?
23. What does v. 48 highlight? Who is “those who are of the dust”? Who is “those who are of heaven”? How does one become one of “those who are of heaven”?
24. Read Romans 5:12-21. How does this passage complement what we have here?

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25. What does Paul teach in v. 49? How does this relate to the resurrection body? How certain is this?

26. Summarize what this passage teaches in one sentence.

27. How does this passage bring you hope?

28. How does this passage shape your thinking in regard to death? The resurrection? The resurrection body?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that God will use the preaching of his Word to instill his people with the future hope they have in Christ.