

## Union with Christ in his Resurrection

### 1 Corinthians 15:12-23

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1. v.12 says that some think there will be no resurrection from the dead. Why do you think people back then believed this, and why do people today believe this still? Perhaps take a look at Acts 17:32 and context.
2. Paul considers the resurrection of Jesus a historical fact. What evidences for this fact does he present in vv.3-8? How does this compare to the amount of witnesses required in Deuteronomy 19:15?
3. What difference does it make that Jesus was raised physically from the dead, as opposed to spiritually? Stated differently, why do we have to say that, “Jesus rose from the dead physically, historically, really,” rather than saying, “Jesus rose spiritually in the hearts of the believers and they felt Jesus in their presence”? Related to this is 1 John 4:2 and 2 John 1:7.
4. What are some of the implications if the resurrection of Jesus did not happen according to vv.14-19?
5. Why does Paul so closely associate the resurrection of Jesus to our resurrection in these verses?
6. What are “firstfruits” according to the Old Testament (Ex. 23:19; Lev. 2:12)? Why is v.20 so important to Paul’s argument? What does Paul’s reference to “firstfruits” teach us about the relationship between Jesus’ resurrection and our own?
7. Would you go so far as to say that if the resurrection of Jesus did not happen then Christianity is false? Why or why not? What implications does this have for the way we speak to unbelievers?
8. What is the work of the Holy Spirit in the resurrection of our bodies according to Romans 8:11?
9. What effects do the resurrection of Jesus, and our resurrection has on the whole creation? Perhaps consult Romans 8:19-23.
10. How will death come to an end according to 1 Cor. 15:26 and context? What practical value does this hold for us who have lost loved ones in the Lord?
11. What is the difference between the resurrection of unbelievers and believers? Compare this passage to John 5:28-29.
12. What assurance does this passage give to you in the present?