



Our Resurrected Bodies

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Colossians 3:1-4 NLT

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all His glory.

WILL WE HAVE PHYSICAL BODIES IN HEAVEN?

Objection: 1 Corinthians 15:44 and 1 Corinthians 15:50 seem to state there won't be physical bodies in Heaven.

1 Corinthians 15:44 KJV: *They are buried as physical bodies but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are physical bodies there are spiritual bodies.*

1 Corinthians 15:50a KJV: *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God...*

"Simply in the terms of the Greek words Paul uses... the contrast is between the present body, corruptible, decaying and doomed to die and the future body, incorruptible, undecaying and never to die again... the contrast again is not between what we call physical and what we call non-physical but between corruptible physicality, on the one hand, and incorruptible physicality on the other." ~ NT Wright

Luke 24:39 NLT: *Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it's really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies, as you see that I do.*

1 Corinthians 15:49 NLT: *Just as we are now like the earthly man (meaning Adam, who has a corruptible body) we will someday be like the heavenly man (meaning Jesus who has an incorruptible body).*

"It is important to understand that Christ's resurrected body was simply not just a resuscitated body like Lazarus but a new kind of body that He could (and did) take to heaven when He ascended. And so can we." ~ Peter Kreeft

Romans 8:23 NLT: *"And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us His full rights as His adopted children, including the new bodies that He has promised us."*

1. Will we still be ourselves in Heaven?

"Unless we grasp the Resurrection we won't believe that we'll continue to be ourselves in the afterlife. We are physical beings. If Heaven is a disembodied state then our humanity will either be diminished or transcended, and we will never again be ourselves after we die."

~ Randy Alcorn

Revelation 2:17b NLT: *And I will give to each one a white stone, and on that stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it.*

Jesus' resurrected body was remarkably similar in appearance to His pre-resurrected human body – so much so that in several instances, people who knew Jesus, didn't recognize His resurrected state as anything unusual and mistook Him for simply another human being: Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18), the Emmaus disciples (Luke 24:13-35), and the 11 disciples (John 21:1-7).

"Mary's case can be explained by the fact that she initially didn't get a direct view of Jesus in the early morning light of the garden. But as soon as Jesus looked at her directly she recognized Him immediately (John 20:16). Something similar could explain the failure of the apostles to recognize Jesus standing on the shore. As for the disciples on the road to Emmaus, the text explicitly states that they were kept from recognizing Him (Luke 24:16). This suggests that in this case at least, supernatural, divine intervention was the reason for the failure of recognition."

~ Randal Rauser

"Of this we can be certain – no matter what we look like our bodies will please the Lord, ourselves and each other. We won't gaze into the mirror wishing for a different nose or different cheeks, ears or teeth. The sinless beauty of the inner person will overflow into the beauty of the outer person. We'll neither feel insecurity or arrogance. We won't attempt to hide or impress. We won't try to look beautiful – we will be beautiful." ~ Randy Alcorn

2. Will we eat in Heaven?

Examples of Jesus eating with people after His resurrection:

In John 21:4-14, Jesus invites His disciples to come and have breakfast with Him by the sea. He cooked fish for them and ate with them.

Luke 24:40-43 NLT: *As He spoke He showed them His hands and feet. Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then He asked them, "do you have anything here to eat?" **They gave Him a piece of broiled fish and He ate it as they watched.***

Acts 10:40-41 NLT: *But God raised Him to life on the third day. Then God allowed Him to appear, not to the general public but to us whom God had chosen in advance to be his witnesses. **We were those who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead.***

"He [Jesus] proved that resurrected bodies are capable of eating food, real food. Christ could have abstained from eating. The fact that He didn't is a powerful statement about the nature of His resurrection body, and by implication, ours, since Christ "will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body (Philippians 3:21)." ~ Randy Alcorn

Objection: What about Revelation 7:16? 1 Corinthians 6:13?
They seem to suggest food and drink will be done away with, don't they?

Revelation 7:16a NIV: *Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst.*

In response, consider

Revelation 7:17a NIV: *For the lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; **He will lead them to springs of living water**".*

These scriptures do not speak to a lack of appetite or desire, rather, they speak to the truth that our appetites and desires will be met. They will not be absent from our experience... rather they will be met! God does not say that we won't need to drink... rather He promises that He will lead us to water!

1 Corinthians 6:13a NLT: *Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, this is true, though someday God will do away with both.*

In response...

Paul is referring to our physical nature and subsequent desires that are corrupted by sin, and he is stating that one day God will do away with our corrupted and sinful nature and everything that is tied to our experience as a result.

The Bible is full of descriptions of eating meals as an integral part to life in community in Heaven.

Matthew 26:29 NLT: *Mark my words - I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom.*

Luke 22:29-30a NLT: *And just as my Father has granted me a Kingdom, I now grant you the right to eat and drink at my table in my kingdom.*

Isaiah 25:6 NLT: *In Jerusalem, the Lord of Heaven's Armies will spread a wonderful feast for all the people of the world. It will be a delicious banquet with clear, well-aged wine and choice meat.*

Matthew 8:11 NLT: *And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world - from east and west - and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven.*

Revelation 19:9 NLT: *...Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb...*

3. Will we be capable of sinning in Heaven?

Revelation 21:4 NIV: *He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.*

Hebrews 9:27-28 NIV: *Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.*

Romans 8:18-21 NLT: *Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.*