

All Flesh Is Not the Same Flesh

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1 Corinthians 15:35-50 But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

- I. All flesh is not the same flesh – this is in answer to the question in verse 35: “With what body do they come?”
 - A. Earth bound men have a hard time comprehending a different existence that what they have always known here on earth.
 1. They try to understand spiritual things by the natural things they see.
 2. While there is a parallel between the two they are different and that is something that must be acknowledged.
 3. The explanation Paul gives here starts by showing that there are great differences even in the natural realm, yet they are still the same.
 4. All flesh is flesh, but all flesh is not the same.
 - B. There are 4 different types of flesh named here: men, beasts, fishes, and birds.
 - C. Although they are similar in their makeup and function each one is distinctly different.
 - D. The flesh of man is different from that of the beasts.
 1. For example, animal blood cannot be transfused to humans because it is different.
 2. This is proof that man is not an animal – he is separate from the beasts, even though he shares the same designer, and therefore has some things in common.
 - E. There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies.
 1. There are things that are “above the skies.” – this is what “celestial” means.
 - a) Some we can see and some we cannot see.
 2. And there are things that are from and of this earth.
 - a) Some we can see and some we cannot see.

3. Each has its own glory but the glory of one is not the same glory as the other.
 - a) Its own purpose, its own importance.
4. Those bodies that are above the skies are similar, yet different than those on earth.
 - a) The pictures we can now see of the surface of the Moon and Mars and the other planets reveal a great similarity to Earth in some ways, but a great difference is also undeniable.
 - b) They are all made out of the same stuff, but have a very different existence.

II. So also is the resurrection of the dead.

- A. It is almost perfectly illustrated by a simple butterfly's life cycle.
 1. An egg, a worm, a tomb, and a butterfly.
 2. All are the same body, but in different forms – the last being by far better than the others.
- B. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:.
 1. That caterpillar that goes into its chrysalis is a corrupt and disgusting-looking thing.
 2. But when it emerges from its tomb no one would describe it as anything but beautiful.
 3. Before it enters the tomb it is bound to crawl on its belly and eat what it chances to find.
 4. But when it comes forth from its tomb it has wings to fly and lives on the nectar of flowers.

III. ⁴⁴It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

- A. What it is now is not what it will be when it is resurrected.
- B. While it will be the same body, it will be in a different form, just as the butterfly.
- C. It will be suited for a different world and a different existence, quite different than this world.
- D. It will be changed into a body that is spiritual and lives in a spiritual world.
- E. We will not be bound by the things that bind us now – time and space, particularly.
- F. Our existence will be sustained by something different than what it is now.
- G. There IS a spiritual body.

IV. The natural comes before the spiritual, as a seed that is sown.

1 Corinthians 15:45-49 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

- A. The first Adam was of the earth – the second Adam was of heaven.
- B. We are by nature the sons of Adam and bear his image.
- C. If we are born of God then we shall also bear the image of the second Adam, who is spiritual.

V. There must be a change and that change must happen before death.

1 Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

- A. What will happen when you are resurrected from the dead is determined while you are yet alive.
 - 1. You might look at it like this: the resurrection happens when you give your heart and life to Jesus and trust Him as your savior.
- B. The corruption must be dealt with and destroyed this side of the grave by being born again.
- C. There must be that seed planted in your soul or you will perish forever. (1 John 3:9)
- D. No one who is simply flesh and blood here is going to inherit the kingdom of God after death.
- E. If there is no spiritual part of you now there is nothing to resurrect in that new world.
 - 1. Eternal life begins here on earth – not in heaven after you die.