

# Body by God

*Discovering Principles from 1 & 2 Corinthians about Building Up Christ's Body*

## Death and Taxes—Not!

Introduction to 1 Corinthians 15-16

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

It has been said that there are two things in life that are certain—death and taxes. But in God's kingdom, this is not true. As His children we do not live with the fear of death, and we are not enslaved to taxation in God's economy. As Paul concludes 1 Corinthians, he shows why this is true: because of the fact and hope of the resurrection. In chapter 15 we are shown that Christ's resurrection guarantees that those who are His children will be resurrected as well. This means that we no longer have to fear death; quite to the contrary, we can fully live as God intended for us to live. Knowing that death is not the end, we can joyfully experience life without the ultimate dread of death. Secondly, because of the resur-

rection, we are able to give freely, rather than out of obligation. The realization that we will outlive all the "things" of this earth allows us to freely use our possessions to minister to those in God's kingdom who are in need. For Paul's time, that applied to the poor Christians living in Jerusalem, but the principle applies to those in need in every generation. Unlike the obligatory giving imposed by governmental taxation, or Old Testament law, Christian giving is free and generous because of the hope of life forever with God in which material possessions will be irrelevant. Paul showed that this principle of giving even extends to expressions of love to our fellow believers. As the letter concluded,



**Following God's principles will develop a church body that can glorify Him fully**

the love between Paul, Timothy, Apollos and the Corinthians was obvious. Additionally, the love between the church at Corinth and churches all over the world is shown in the closing verses of 1 Corinthians. Because of the resurrection, rather than being trapped by death and taxes, we are freed to live, give and love to the fullest.

## Study/Discussion Questions for 1 Corinthians 15-16

*(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader) resources)*

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| 1. Read 15:1-11. What is the "gospel" that Paul preached to them (v3-4), and how had they responded to it (v1-2, 11)? What were some evidences that it was true (v5-7, 8-10)?             |  |
| 2. Using 15:12-19 why is it necessary to believe the reality of resurrection (v12-13, 15-16), and what would be the practical results if the resurrection weren't true (v14, 17, 18, 19)? |  |
| 3. From 15:20-28 what does Christ's resurrection guarantee (v20, 21-22), and what will the sequence be (v23)? What will be the ultimate outcome of the resurrection (v24-28)?             |  |

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## I Corinthians 15-16 Study Questions (cont)

4. According to 15:29-34 what actions should the resurrection cause people to take (v29, 30-32)? In contrast, how were some Christians being influenced to act (v32-33), and what was Paul's advice (v33-34)?

5. Looking at 15:35-49 compare our earthly bodies with our resurrected bodies (v37, 40, 42-44, 48-49). What must happen before this change occurs (36), and who is its source (v45)?

6. Based on 15:50-58, at what event will living and dead believers receive their immortal bodies (51-52)? What will be the significance of this (v54), and why (v55-57)? Based on this, how should we act (v58)?

7. Read 16:1-2. What was considered "normal" practice for Christians (v1)? What 3 guidelines were given for this (v2), and what would this

8. From 16:3-12 what were Paul's plans for visiting the Corinthians (v3-7), and what did this depend on (v8-9)? What were Timothy's (v10-11) and Apollos' (v12) plans? How is Paul's love seen for the Corinthians, Timothy and Apollos?

9. Looking at 16:13-14, what 5 things did Paul tell the Corinthians to do? What did they mean, and why were each important? Apply to today.

10. Using 16:15-24 who came to Paul from the church at Corinth (v17-18), and what was his response (v15-16, 17-18). How else was love shown among the believers in these final verses (v19-21, 24), and what was Paul's final word (v22-23)?

11. Review 15-16. How does the truth of and hope in the resurrection impact our ability to live fully, give generously, and express heart-felt love for others ?

***"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."***

***1 Corinthians 15:57***

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*Reaching—  
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### Life Group Questions

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship)*

1. As a group, kick around the question of why you think divorce has grown so rapidly in America.
2. God's purpose is "one man for one woman for life". What are some people's objections to this, and why do you think it is a good thing?
3. In what ways do you see sin as the major issue that leads to the break-up of marriages? In light of our sinful natures, what can we do about this?
4. Discuss why dealing with anger is an absolute necessity for establishing a healthy basis for marriage.
5. Talk about the value of remaining single long enough to overcome the "pathological pull" to someone who will meet your needs, and how the role of the body of Christ is so vital to this process of recovery.
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from this week's message if you have time.