

Week 29 **LEADER** Discussion Questions

**LEADERS**, we're just a couple weeks away from the end of this series on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Weekly discussion questions will not continue once the series ends but will resume in the fall, and the summer is a great time to take a break from your regular rhythm of meeting. We encourage this so that you can enjoy a break, but also because the summer months are often full of different travel schedules that can make it difficult to meet consistently. Summer breaks often make for a more refreshing start to the fall.

We recommend that you discuss with your group what your summer plans will be. Many groups continue to meet socially on a less-frequent basis over the summer for picnics, hikes, backyard barbeques, etc. If you have questions about this, reach out to your Community Life team at your campus.

**Text:** 1 Cor 15:35-49

**Icebreaker:** As spring arrives (which includes random bouts of snow, of course), what change do you enjoy most as you look out at the budding trees, blooming flowers, and other sights?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?

2. In verses 35–38, Paul uses the analogy of a seed and a plant to explain the resurrection body. What do you think he's trying to teach about the nature of resurrection through this image?

Paul is setting up the major contrast between what we currently experience with our bodies and what we will one day experience with our resurrected bodies. The transformation a seed undergoes to produce a plant should make us marvel at the kind of change that we will one day experience. There's a continuity between the two—as a seed “contains” the substance of the plant—but the discontinuity is radical as the plant transforms into something far more glorious.

*Application:* How does understanding the resurrection body change the way you view physical death and suffering now?

3. Paul mentions different kinds of bodies (vv. 39–41). Why do you think he highlights these differences, and how do they support his argument about the resurrection body?

Paul is saying, in essence, that we have helpful examples of different physical “glories” that we can observe in our current experience. In other words, we don’t have to wonder what it might mean for there to be different kinds of bodies because we live in a Universe of different kinds of bodies. These differences today are analogous to how our temporary physical bodies today are different than what our resurrected physical bodies will be.

To put in our own terms today, the “glory” of the moon is something less than the “glory” of the sun because the moon relies on the sun to illuminate it. We don’t have to wonder what it would mean for the moon to be more glorious because we have another object in the sky (the sun) that shows us a greater glory. This demonstrates that God knows how to make one physical object more glorious than another. We can trust, then, that he will be able to make our resurrected bodies more glorious than our current bodies.

4. In verses 42–44, Paul contrasts the earthly body and the resurrected body. What are the key differences he lists, and what do they tell us about the nature of our future resurrection bodies?

Note what Paul lists here. It’s the difference between “perishable” and “imperishable,” “dishonor” and “glory,” “weakness” and “power,” “natural” and “spiritual.” In this case, “spiritual” should not be thought of as immaterial or “non-physical.” “Spiritual” is in contrast with “natural,” which means that Paul is highlighting the glorified state of our future physical bodies. One resource explains this as “a physical body wholly belonging to the new age, wholly like Christ, wholly under the Spirit’s direction” (NIDNTTE).

*Application:* Paul talks about our current body being “perishable” and our future body being “imperishable” (v. 42). In what ways are we tempted to place too much value on things that are temporary?

**5. *Application:*** Paul finds points of comparison to both the “first man Adam” and “the last Adam” in verses 45-49. What hope do you think we can find from these comparisons?