



# one body

1 Corinthians 12-16

SCPC term 4 2008

## sunday 30th november 2008

### study 7 ONE BODY, ONE HOPE 1 Cor 15:12-34

KEY VERSE FOR SERIES: "the body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ." **1 Corinthians 12:12**

Last week we looked at the FACT of Jesus' resurrection: it is history. However it is much more, as we see this week, than history. It is not just a past event to be believed but a present reality to be lived. The fact that Christ WAS raised means that he IS Lord and that he WILL destroy all enemies of God including death itself. To believe in Jesus' death and resurrection that is presently unfolding. It has consequences for now and consequences for the future. And that is where the challenge kicks in for the Corinthians (come back to your senses! v34) and for us: part of the NOW of the resurrection of Jesus is living a new life under his rule. It changes everything. It means sacrifices and changed priorities that would be pitiful if the resurrection weren't true (v19). But it is true and we should live the true story. If you looked at Paul's life you'd know he believed in the resurrection ("why is he fighting that wild beast?" v32). What about people looking at our lives? ... a good question as we head into connect09.

Q1. It seems that it is not so much Jesus' resurrection that some people are denying but rather a denial that it has any consequences for anyone else (i.e. no resurrection of "the dead" rather than "of Jesus"). However Paul will argue in verse 13 that such a denial amounts to the same thing.

Q2. Words such as 'useless', 'futile' and pitiful dominate the picture. Verse 19 is worthy of special study. This is a good chance to check-in that the gospel we communicate is the same as that of the apostles as given to them by Jesus. It is not a "life goes better with Jesus around" soft gospel. It is not ultimately a "this life" gospel (v19). It is in fact an invitation to take up our cross (v31) in this life and rise beyond the grave. Jesus' story truly becomes our story. It is not a story of glory now but suffering followed by glory. But if there is no glory all you have is suffering! And that is the Christianity you're left with without the resurrection of Jesus. Pitiful indeed.

Q3. Enjoy here the wonder that our future glory is not tied to anything we do but the victory Jesus has won! In our own efforts we are 'in Adam' but simply by faith in Christ we have a new future—his future.

Q4. It is a stunning picture Paul paints of Jesus domino over all things, all enemies at his feet—even death. Jesus' resurrection is not just a neat trick or the 'best of the best' miracle. It reveals his identity as the Messiah who reigns over all. That is not something to deny or to live the 'this world is all there is' life of eating, drinking and being merry—as the Corinthians were. But Jesus' resurrection shows us there is much more to live for... eat drink be merry gives way to ...something like... connect, grow, serve! Now that's a better motto.

Q5-8. We need to be careful that we don't settle for a Christianity that is about our comfort rather than Christ's honour. Let's challenge each other about that!!



*It was great to see the 'firstfruits' of 'my part in connect09' ministry surveys returned last Sunday. With your encouragement in your group it would be great to see that turn into a great harvest! Remember also that there is a lot in the white booklet that goes beyond just 'filling out the form'. It would be great if those all-important "things you can't tick" were an ongoing focus of prayer in your group.*

small group bible study leaders' notes