



one body

1 Corinthians 12-16

SCPC term 4 2008

sunday 7th december 2008

study 8 ONE BODY, ONE FUTURE 1 Cor 15:35-58

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

FIRST: just a reminder about one great way we can use our church website www.spc.org.au—as I mentioned last Sunday, if you have a question or comment arising from one of the Sunday talks just add it as a comment to the podcast post of the talk on the website (which normally goes up within a few hours of morning church). If you have a question chances are many others may have it too. In any case, it's helpful for all to be engaging more deeply in the text of God's Word. There just isn't time to cover everything in the time we have together on Sunday so the website helps us extend our study and meditation on God's Word. Questions, comments and discussion on the website also have the effect of 'linking' what's happening in our various small groups. So if there is a question or insight worth sharing from your group—post that up too, so other groups can benefit. As we grow as a church it's one way we can have the best of both worlds—more personal discussion in our groups, as well as rich and diverse interaction with what's being learned throughout the entire church. If you're worried about how to go about this 'website discussion' have a read of Pete's excellent post 'A Guide to Biblical Blogging' which you will find under the Featured Articles heading, scrolling down the left-hand sidebar.

Q1-2. The seed analogy really captures the key concept of this chapter—the relationship between our earthly bodies and our resurrection bodies is a relationship characterized both by continuity and discontinuity. Continuity means that a tomato seed produces a tomato plant not a fig tree. Discontinuity means that the tomato plant is far more glorious and barely recognizable from the original seed. So also our earthly bodies provide the seed for our resurrection body—there is continuity. But the discontinuity is what we can rejoice in—no more pain, sin, disease, death.

Q3. Every now and then the answer to a question really is... "Jesus"!!

Q4. "In a flash"... Think of all the hours at the gym, the weeks of dieting ... to try to do something with these wretched earthly bodies.... And what God will do 'in a flash' - giving us immortal imperishable bodies. There is a motivational poster to put up on the wall!

Q5. Paul really is mocking death!! No wonder he can say that he "dies every day" (v31) and no wonder he fights wild beasts (v32). He can do that because death is not the end. He has not believed in Jesus death and resurrection in vain.

Q6. The talk will focus on verse 58... because we don't believe in vain neither do we labour for the Lord in vain. If this life is all there is then we Christians are pitiful for making sacrifices and dying to ourselves every day. But because all of that labour is in fact a wise investment in eternity, we GIVE ourselves to it (v58) - the DEVOTION idea of Acts 2:42. The challenge of 1 Corinthians 15 concludes with the same challenge we shared in at Vision Sunday—let's stop living a 2D Christianity but "fully give/devote" ourselves to the 3D eternal Jesus.



Q7-9 One of the best ways to focus the application of this study would be to continue discussing with your group the 'my part in connect09' ministry surveys. Remember 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. They are the sorts of things that 1 Corinthians 15 pushes us to consider as we live lives focused not on passing earthly glory but on our glorious eternal future in Jesus.

small group bible study leaders' notes