

# Christ

in 1 Corinthians

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THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST



# 1 Corinthians 15:3-11

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For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

<sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.



# 1 Corinthians 15:3-11

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<sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.



# 1 Corinthians 15:17-22

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And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.



# Outline

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1. The fact of the resurrection
2. The power of the resurrection
3. The hope of the resurrection



# 1. The fact of the resurrection

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*What happened?*



# 1. The fact of the resurrection

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*What happened?*

→ Jesus physically rose from the dead





*Make no mistake: if He rose at all  
it was as His body;  
if the cells' dissolution did not reverse, the  
molecules  
reknit, the amino acids rekindle,  
the Church will fall.*

*It was not as the flowers,  
each soft Spring recurrent;  
it was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled  
eyes of the eleven apostles;  
it was as His flesh: ours.*

*The same hinged thumbs and toes,  
the same valved heart  
that-pierced-died, withered, paused, and then  
regathered out of enduring Might  
new strength to enclose.*





*Let us not mock God with metaphor,  
analogy, sidestepping, transcendence;  
making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the  
faded credulity of earlier ages:  
let us walk through the door.*

*The stone is rolled back, not papier-mâché,  
not a stone in a story,  
but the vast rock of materiality that in the slow  
grinding of time will eclipse for each of us  
the wide light of day.*

—John Updike  
“Seven Stanzas of Easter”

# 1. The fact of the resurrection

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*What happened?*

→ Jesus physically rose from the dead

→ Jesus appeared to his followers



# BASIC Christianity

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“An investigation of the . . . appearances reveals an almost studied variety in the circumstances of person, place and mood in which they occurred. Thus, there were three individual interviews (Mary Magdalene, Peter and James), and an interview with two on the road to Emmaus. There were at least ten to whom Christ appeared on the first Easter Day, and eleven or so more the following Sunday, while St. Paul claims that more than five hundred brethren saw Him together on one occasion (probably in Galilee).

# BASIC Christianity

John R.W.  
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As for places, so far from the appearances happening in one or two sacred spots, there were almost as many places in which He was seen as groups of people who saw Him. There were the garden of the sepulcher, somewhere between the garden and the city, the upper room, the road to Emmaus, a mountain in Galilee, the lake shore of Galilee, and the Mount of Olives near Bethany. If there was variety in person and place, there was variety in mood also.

# BASIC Christianity

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Mary Magdalene was weeping; the women were afraid and astonished; Peter was full of remorse, and Thomas of incredulity. The Emmaus pair were distracted by the events of the week and the disciples in Galilee by their fishing. Yet through their doubts and fears, through their unbelief and preoccupation the risen Lord made Himself known to them. He broke through the thick barriers of their faithlessness. Let no man dismiss these revelations of the divine Lord as the hallucinations of deranged, human minds."

# 2. The power of the resurrection

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## *Three case studies*

→ The risen Christ can forgive the guilty (the case of Peter)



# 2. The power of the resurrection

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## *Three case studies*

→ The risen Christ can forgive the guilty (the case of Peter)

→ The risen Christ can convince the skeptic (the case of James)





## 2. The power of the resurrection

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### *Three case studies*

- The risen Christ can forgive the guilty (the case of Peter)
- The risen Christ can convince the skeptic (the case of James)
- The risen Christ can convert the enemy (the case of Paul)



# 3. The hope of the resurrection

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# 1 Corinthians 15:17-22

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And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.





The New Testament writers speak as if Christ's achievement in rising from the dead was the first event of its kind in the whole history of the universe. He is the 'first fruits,' the 'pioneer of life.' He has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought, and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because He has done so. This is the beginning of the New Creation: a new chapter in cosmic history has begun.

—C. S. Lewis

# 3. The hope of the resurrection

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*Two dimensions of hope*

→ This hope is personal





Tears were streaming because I was struck with the beauty of seeing so many people on bended knees before the Lord. It was a picture of heaven. Sitting there, I was reminded that in heaven I will be free to jump up, dance, kick, and do aerobics. The first thing I plan to do on resurrected legs is to drop on grateful, glorified knees. I will quietly kneel at the feet of Jesus.

—Joni Eareckson Tada

# 3. The hope of the resurrection

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*Two dimensions of hope*

→ This hope is personal

→ This hope is cosmic

