



## **“What if it’s True? | Resurrection and Life Everlasting”**

September 4

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What do you think the resurrected life will be like? Do you have any particular hopes for it?
2. What do you think of Paul's seed and plant imagery? How is it helpful or not helpful?
3. What are the comparisons Paul makes between our earthly bodies and our resurrected bodies? Are there any of them that particularly appeal to you? Why?
4. What do you think about the distinction Karen makes in her sermon between "natural" life and "spiritual" life? What implications does it have?
5. Karen quotes Ben Myers: "Death is serious: but not as serious as life. It has been placed in a wider context of meaning... By nature we are all on the way from birth to death. But by grace we are traveling in the opposite direction. The Christian life is a mystery that moves from death to birth. At the beginning we are baptised into Christ's death; and at the end we are born into the life of the resurrection. We are born as though dying; we die as those who are being born." (Myers 84) Does this imagery resonate with you? Why or why not?
6. In thinking through the series on the Apostles' Creed, what have been some of the things that have stood out to you, or where you have either changed your mind or come to understand things better?



## 1 Corinthians 15:35-43, 51-57

### The Resurrection Body

35 But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" 36 How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38 But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. 39 Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. 40 There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. 41 The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"[a]; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. 46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. 48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we[b] bear the image of the heavenly man.

50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." [c]

55 "Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?" [d]

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.