
Community Question:

1. What is your favorite song that speaks of the resurrection of Jesus?

Into the Word/Application:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15 and answer the following questions:
   a. Where is the core message of the gospel in this passage?

The answer is 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

[3] For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, [4] that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, (ESV)

This however, should be treated as “what are the least amount of things we need to believe to be Christians?” Rather, we should look at this as the starting point for diving deep and swimming around in the deep theological truths of the gospel. If you’d like, spend time wading through each phrase:
   - Christ died
   - Christ died for our sins (whose sins?)
   - In accordance with the Scriptures (in other words, Jesus fulfilled ALL the Scriptures)
   - He was buried (actually physically buried, for 3 days which means that Jesus actually died)
   - He was raised on the 3rd day (actually, physically and eternally raised)

b. Why does Paul make mention of all those Jesus appeared to? (vv.5-8)

This is further validation that Jesus is who He claimed to be. Paul says, don’t take my word for it. Go ask all these other eyewitnesses who are still living. They will corroborate my testimony. No serious historian doubts that Jesus was a real person who really died. And we have not only eyewitness accounts, but universal agreement with the 1st century and beyond that Jesus actually died AND bodily and eternally rose from the grave. Check this article out on the historicity of the resurrection as you prepare this week: http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/historical-evidence-for-the-resurrection

c. Why is the resurrection of Jesus essential to the Christian faith?

This is where you want to spend time wading through the middle part of 1 Corinthians 15 in 1 Corinthians 15:12-19
[12] Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? [13] But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. [14] And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. [15] We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. [16] For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. [17] And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. [18] Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. [19] If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. (ESV)

It is clear from this passage that if Christ did not physically and eternally raise from the dead then there is no resurrection from the dead, everything we do is worthless, our faith is futile and we are still in our sins, doomed to stand before God condemned. The resurrection is the centerpiece of the Christian faith. Without it, everything else withers and falls apart.

d. **What does Christ’s resurrection guarantee believers?**

If we flip the passage we looked at in the last question, we can come to a solid conclusion for what the resurrection provides for us:

Faith; Forgiveness of our sins (which means communion with our Creator); biblical hope because one day we will be resurrected as Jesus was resurrected; and fruitful labor this side of eternity as we wait for the return of our risen Savior. Certainly, there are more benefits, but let’s keep it relevant to 1 Corinthians 15 this week.

e. **How should the resurrection of Jesus impact the lives of believers today?**

We should be hopeful because we are a redeemed people bought by the blood of our risen Savior. Spend some time with your group discussing how the resurrection brings them hope.