

# Discussion Questions

## April 5 – 11

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-34

If you missed the sermon this past weekend, you can view it here:  
<https://www.biblechapel.org/sermon/three-proofs-of-the-resurrection/>

1. Based on his research, David Kinnamon, President of the Barna Group, says that, “Americans’ dedication to Jesus is, in most cases, a mile wide and an inch deep.” Do you agree with his conclusion? Why or why not? How do you think the current COVID-19 situation has impacted the depth of your walk with Christ?
2. In 1 Corinthians 15:12-19, Paul provides four conclusions that result if Jesus was not raised from the dead. In 1 Cor. 15:19 he says that if we have hope in Christ for this life only, “we are of all people most to be pitied.” Do you agree with that? Isn’t there something to be said for a Christian ethic (honesty, love, compassion, etc) even without the resurrection?
3. In 1 Corinthians 15:20 Paul notes that Christ is the “firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” Here Paul is referring to the Jewish observance of the “Feast of Firstfruits” in Leviticus 23:9-14. What is the significance of that analogy?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 15:26. “Death” describes spiritual death (separation from God), physical death (soul separated from the body), and eternal death (separation from God forever). Think through the Creation—Fall—Redemption framework of Scripture. How has God provided for the destruction of the spiritual, physical, and eternal aspects of death?
5. In 1 Corinthians 15:30-34, Paul argues that belief changes behavior. How does knowing that Jesus was raised from the dead and that all believers will one day be raised from the dead impact your thinking, emotions, and actions?

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### **A Note from Ron Moore on 1 Corinthians 15:29:**

This is a difficult verse for us to understand. Two sources cited up to 200 different interpretations! Here's what I think it means. Paul was arguing against those who did not believe in the resurrection of believers. They held that even if Jesus was raised from the dead believers won't be raised in a bodily resurrection. This belief was promoted by the Sadducees and Greek philosophers.

However, there were some who didn't believe in the bodily resurrection who participated in this practice of baptism on behalf of the dead. A believer had died without being baptized—so a believer was baptized on behalf of the dead believer. There are many possibilities as to why this many have happened.

Paul did not believe, teach, or approve of this practice. He only cites it as something people were doing but gives no credence to it. But a group was doing it, so he simply used it as an example. Basically, he is asking, "Why would you be baptized on behalf of the dead if you didn't believe that the dead in Christ are raised to life?" In other words, your practice contradicts your belief.

Using something outside of Scripture to make theological point would not be unusual for Paul. In this passage he quotes two pagan writers in 1 Cor. 15:32 and 33 to make a biblical point.

One thing we do know. This passage would have made sense to the Corinthians if not so much for us.

But the point here is this: The resurrection of Jesus is the firstfruits. It's the proof that much more is coming. Easter is just the kickoff of the resurrection of all believers!