

Why Does it Matter?  
Series, "Gospel Community"  
1 Corinthians 15:50-58

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Intro- we are here at the end of 1 Corinthians. Spent a good chunk of time on this book, haven't we? Started way back in August.

We end where we started.

Starts chapter 15 with a run down and reminder of the Gospel  
*Now I would remind you, brothers, of the Gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the Word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:1-2)*

Death entered the world through Adam, but so had our redemption, in the person of Jesus. That's the Gospel message.

Jesus was resurrected and defeated death. And because of this we can experience resurrection to And that brings us to these final words that Paul chose to write to these people.

Interesting, because the first time we talked about this it was individualistic in nature.

It's easy to interpret Scripture as it applies to me as an individual, but I would challenge us today to look at these last few verses not just as they apply to me specifically, but how they apply to us as a community.

It would be such a weird shift for Paul to talk all about community for 14 chapters, then just make this about us on an individual level. Maybe there is more than we think here.

*I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:*

*"Death is swallowed up in victory."*

*"O death, where is your victory?*

*O death, where is your sting?"*

*The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:50-57)*

So what is he saying here? First reading - end times. Which is true.

Physical resurrection and spiritual resurrection

Is it possible that not only is he talking about a resurrected body later, and a resurrected spirit now, but a resurrection community moving forward?

I think that is what Paul is trying to nail home here, that we have the opportunity to live in this type of community. One that is more alive than we could have ever imagined.

We have been using the term Gospel community. Just for today, let's change it to resurrection community. This is what our churches are supposed to be like, our peer groups, home groups, etc.

What does a resurrection community look like?

It's what we have all been talking about this whole time.

Lead with love - 13

Use their gifts to build up - spiritual gifts

Embrace freedom, but are willing to lay it down

That recognizes the value of each person who is a part of this

That knows what real grace looks like, not a get-out-of-jail-free card, but an agent for real change

It's a community that pursues purity in all things.

It's a community that has order, so that it can accomplish its purposes God has given it.

Pursues worship, pursues liberty, pursues unity

See I think this answers the question of why all of this matters. Because what we are striving for, and what Jesus has offered, is bigger than we might think.

It's not just tips and tricks to deal with people easier, or to be marginally better people to each other. It's living among people, in a community that was once dead but is now alive.

That's is such a bigger calling and blessing than what we might come up with on our own.

I believe that if we are committed to living in that type of community, we get a front row seat to some pretty wild things.

Chronicles of Narnia

Death moves backwards

We get to see and be part of what Jesus is doing in this world.

Imagine the impact

Life to death, light to darkness, hope to hopeless, beauty from brokenness

That makes me really excited.

And it's instantly followed up by a bunch of justifications and excuses.

Two action steps

**1. If you are in community- make sure it's alive.**

Anchor House

We need to ask the question, is my community carrying life or death?

Is my home group motivated by love? Or is it self-seeking?

In my peer ministry, are our gifts and talents used to lift Jesus up and encourage each other, or just used to puff individuals up

In my friend group, are we pursuing purity in all things? Or is it a place where we can all get away with things without any honest accountability?

In the ministries of our church, are we elevating our freedoms above our care of each other?

In our church, CrossPoint as a whole, do we recognize and value each part because we are one, or do we play favorites, do we think too highly of ourselves.

**2. If you are not in community- it's too important to let go.**

Maybe you are here and think every week, yes, I need to do this, then it slips, life gets busy.

Some of us need to push past the awkwardness of asking to get involved.

Some of us need to take the risk of entering a real community, where you might, probably will, be hurt sometimes in some ways, but recognize its worth it.

Some of us need to stop sitting here waiting and hoping for someone to come drag us kicking and screaming into community. It's what we want, but we are playing coy about it and then get frustrated when someone doesn't do what we never even showed that we wanted.

Start today

Out in the park café area, some opportunities to get started.

*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)*

This might be difficult, but it's not in vain. Learning how to live again can be complicated, but it is worth it. So stand firm, trust Jesus, follow His leading in our communities, and know that it is all massively worth it. And if we ignore it, frankly, we are missing out. But when we do embrace resurrection community and all that comes with it, we see these communities move from physical to spiritual, from perishable to imperishable, from death to life, and we become something death can't even touch. This is what we are called to, and I am more and more sure that this is how we change the world.



**GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER** (USE JUST ONE OR ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS TO CONNECT AS YOU START YOUR CONVERSATION)

- 1** What is something you have been looking forward to for a long time? How does waiting generally make you feel?
- 2** How did your view of life after death change after surrendering your life to Jesus? What is the greatest fear you still have about death?

We have spent 27 weeks digging through the book of 1 Corinthians and finding connections between Paul's message to the church in Corinth and our own lives. Matt started this study asking this question: "How do we (Jesus followers) live together in Gospel community?" Kyle wrapped up the series this Sunday looking at what Paul says about Jesus resurrection and the victory we experience because of it. As Paul says, "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." All the hard work of living in Gospel community is not a waste of time – it matters!

**QUICK REVIEW** (OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO SHARE WHAT MOST STOOD OUT FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE)

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, encouraged, challenged, or confused you?

**DIG DEEPER** (OBSERVATIONS FROM THE SCRIPTURE OR COMPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE)

- 1** Read the verses in the questions below from **1 Corinthians 15:1-49** in your own Bible.

**Paul reminds the Corinthians of the Gospel he preached to them. What are the essential elements of the Gospel?** (vs. 1-11)

**If there is no resurrection, what are the consequences for Jesus, for Paul, and for us?** (vs. 12-19)

**What illustrations does Paul use to explain why the resurrection is not illogical, but instead, makes good sense?** (vs. 35-41)

- 2** Someone read **1 Corinthians 15:50-58**

<sup>50</sup> I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." <sup>55</sup> "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

**How has Christ robbed death of its victory and sting? Do you anticipate the day He returns and renews our bodies?**

**Do you ever feel that loving others like Jesus is a waste of time or too small to make a difference? How can the truth God has given to us in these verses bring you hope?**

The love we strive to show others produces an eternal reward. The practical application of the resurrection is the urgency of living faithfully in the present. The future hope of being with Christ and being made new colors and shapes everything about the life of a Christian. We live for the greater cause in the present because everything we do for Christ matters eternally.

## **LIVE IT OUT** (DISCUSS HOW YOU CAN LIVE OUT THE TRUTHS YOU JUST OBSERVED IN SCRIPTURE)

- 1** In verse 58, Paul made it clear that belief in the resurrection demands us to do the hard work of loving others as we live in Gospel community. What makes living in Gospel community difficult? Why is it worth the hard work?
- 2** Thinking about the truths of what we looked at this week, and everything we have discussed in this series, what is one way you know you need to grow in? How can this group help you do that?
- 3** We have been talking together throughout this series about how we live and relate with others that God has called us to be in Gospel community with. A few important questions we can consider are: “Has what we have been discussing during this series made a difference?” and “How have my actions or attitudes changed toward others?”

If you are in a group, and are looking at this before your group meeting, spend a little time thinking about how you would answer these questions and be ready to talk about them with your group.

For the home group leader, if your group doesn't look at this discussion guide before they come to group, feel free to text those questions out to your group before they come, so they can think about how they would respond.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Thank God for the time you have been able to spend together and develop Jesus-centered community. Ask God to confirm and apply the most vital truths of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians in your heart and life. God, continue to transform us and help us bring transformation in the lives of each other and everyone at CrossPoint.

## **NEXT WEEK'S MESSAGE SCRIPTURE**

### **PALM SUNDAY: Matthew 28:1-10**

Prepare for next week's message and group discussion by reading through this passage a few times this week and write down any insights or questions you have before meeting with your home group.

## **PRAISE/PRAYER REQUESTS** (TRY TO HAVE ONE OR A FEW PEOPLE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME)

Use this space or the back of this paper to record down the requests and find a way to share those with the group so you can be praying for each other during the week.

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### **How to Use this Discussion Guide**

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create a healthy environment for Gospel community, growing in friendship, and living like Jesus together. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, please review the guide before your group meets to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressure to read all the content during your group discussion or to hit on all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help your grow in Gospel community.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead. We are praying for you too!

Visit [cpmodesto.org/groupleaders](http://cpmodesto.org/groupleaders) to download the sermon discussion guide every week. Not in a Home Group, but want to be in one? Visit [cpmodesto.org/homegroups](http://cpmodesto.org/homegroups) and use the Home Group Finder!

## **COMMENTARY FOR 1 CORINTHIANS 15:50-58**

**15:50.** Our earthly condition is such (flesh and blood and corruption, references to our perishable physical nature) that our Adamic bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom, implying that they somehow must be changed.

**15:51-53.** Paul supports the above implication (v. 50) with an apostolic revelation that though not everyone will die before Christ's coming, those who are alive when He comes will all be changed. No one is transported to the eternal state unchanged.

**15:52.** "In a moment" signifies the smallest possible division of something, in this case time. "Twinkling of an eye" similarly implies rapidity. Such will be the swiftness of the transformation of the living when the last trumpet sounds at Christ's return.

**15:53.** The body that bears the image of the man of dust (the first Adam) must inevitably be changed into the incorruptibility and immortality of the body that bears the image of the man from Heaven (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam).

**15:54-55.** Paul conflates Isaiah 25:8 and Hosea 13:14 in this citation. The exchange of corruptible for incorruptibility comes only when death and corruption are swallowed up by Jesus Christ. This passage does not teach the doctrine of "soul sleep"—a suspended state for believers between physical death and the change into glorified bodies. Believers are with the Lord immediately after death (see Luke 23:43; Acts 7:55-59; 2 Cor. 5:1-8).

**15:56.** This verse represents a theological aside that Paul developed further in a letter he wrote some months after this present one (see Rom. 7).

**15:58.** Most anything we do in this life is vanity (Ecc. 1:2-3), but labor in the Lord has eternal value.