Growing in Grace

Growing in Community

Life Lessons on Maturity with the Corinthians

***The Resurrection***

***Why is it vital to our faith?***

1 Corinthians 15:1-58

❖ The resurrection is an essential part of the gospel. vv. 1-11

If it is to be “good news,” then it must contain the resurrection of Jesus.

❖ So a “Christian” denial of the resurrection is absurd, pathetic, and tragic. vv. 12-19

We can’t pick and choose from a doctrinal buffet depending upon our preferences or pressure from our culture.

❖ Why? The resurrection is necessary to fulfill the plan and purposes of God. vv. 20-28

The resurrection of Jesus is what validates Him as head of a reborn, redeemed humanity, and demonstrates His triumph over Adam’s sin and death.

❖ Think! Since even our baptism prefigures resurrection life, as does our courage in the face of death, to deny a key doctrine like this is to lead not only to greater sin, but also confuse those who, as yet, have no faith. vv. 29-34

❖ Even rebirths in nature point to how physical death ushers in heavenly life. vv. 35-50

The weakness, mortality, and dust of earthly life will, by resurrection, give way to strength, immortality, and a body fit for eternal glory with God.

❖ And, since our earthly bodies are death-destined, even those alive at Jesus’ return will be given new, eternal bodies. So, we can live faithfully and expectantly in the knowledge that our lives are meaningful and our work will matter eternally. vv. 51-58

**Growth Principle #21 The spiritually mature Christian embraces the resurrection, which has validated the work of Jesus for sinners, and will allow us to share His eternal glory and blessings in immortal bodies.**

*Why the resurrection controversy and what does it mean for us today?*

***1. It seems absurd to think that any Christian would deny the resurrection. But once we feel free to question or add to God’s revelation, any doctrine is “fair game.”***

The philosophies of the Greeks tended either to dismiss the body as unimportant and/or totally distinct from “the spiritual.” As culture exerts pressure to conform (Romans 12:2), Christians are tempted to shift doctrines and practices. Today, for example, baptism is dismissed as nonessential, though commanded by Jesus and practiced universally by the early church. Similarly, we have seen the devaluing of church membership (an outward expression of Body Life), a redefinition of marriage and gender identity (including the roles of men and women), and the adoption of macro-evolution as an explanation of our origins. Some future generation will ask, “What were they thinking?” just as we do of the Corinthians. As with liberty, the price of sound doctrine is eternal vigilance. 2 Timothy 4:1-5

***2. Conviction of the truth of the resurrection creates a foundation for consistency and joy.***

**The resurrection (believed) keeps suffering from crowding out eternity. Romans 8:18**

**The resurrection (believed) dispels our fear of death. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**The resurrection (believed) boosts faith in the power of God. Ephesians 1:15-20**

**The resurrection (believed) reminds us of the relevance of the body. 1 John 3:1-3**

**The resurrection (believed) assures us that our work will last. Matthew 16:24-27**