

1 CORINTHIANS

HANDOUT

RESURRECTION APPEARANCES

The Corinthians also had problems with the doctrine of the resurrection, which Paul sought to correct in chapter 15. Paul's historical and theological defense of the resurrection includes teaching of the:

- Fact of Christ's resurrection
- Timing between Christ's resurrection and the believer's resurrection
- Nature of the resurrected body

Greek thought tended to exalt the spiritual over the physical, therefore the idea of a resurrected body had little place in Greek thought. It's likely the Corinthian church was struggling with how to reconcile Greek thought with Christian faith regarding His resurrection and the promised resurrection of the believer.

Central to Christian faith is the bodily resurrection of Jesus. By recording the resurrection appearances, the New Testament leaves no doubt about this event.

JESUS' POST-RESURRECTION APPEARANCES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Chart by Dean Niforatos

Mary Magdalene	John 20:11-18
Other Women	Matthew 28:9-10
Peter	Luke 24:34
Ten Disciples	Luke 24:36-43; John 29:19-25
The Eleven, including Thomas	John 20:26-29
At Christ's Ascension	Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:4-12
Disciples on the Emmaus Road	Luke 24:13-35
In Galilee	Matt. 28:16-20; John 21:1-24
Five Hundred People	1 Cor. 15:6
Paul on the Road to Damascus	Acts 9:1-6, 18:9-10, 22:1-8, 23:11, 26:12-18; 1 Cor. 15:8

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RESURRECTION OPTIONS

The resurrection of Jesus has been interpreted as:

1. A Great Hoax (the resurrection is *false*)
2. Mythology (the resurrection is fiction)
3. **The Supreme Event of History (the resurrection is *fact*)**

The following theories have been proposed to explain the empty tomb and the post-Resurrection appearances of Christ:

Chart by Dean Niforatos

Theory	Explanation
1. Swoon	Jesus did not actually die.
2. Spirit	Jesus' spirit returned but not his body.
3. Vision	The disciples hallucinated.
4. Legend/Myth	The resurrection is only a myth or story with a teaching point. A real Jesus is probable, but not really necessary.
5. Stolen Body	The body was stolen by (1) the Jews, (2) the Romans, (3) the disciples (Matt. 28:11-15), or (4) Joseph of Arimathea (John 19:38ff).
6. Wrong Tomb	The disciples went to the wrong tomb, found it empty, and erroneously concluded that Jesus had risen.
7. Deliberate Lie for Profit	The disciples fabricated the resurrection story for profit.
8. Mistaken Identity	The disciples mistook for Jesus someone who looked like Him.
9. A Literal, Bodily Resurrection	Jesus was raised from the dead, historically and bodily, by the supernatural power of God (1 Cor. 15:3ff.).

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BIBLICAL GUIDELINES FOR FAMILIES

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1 Cor. 5:1–13; 2 Cor. 2:1–11	Sexual immorality within families	Paul deals with a case of continuing incest within a believer’s family.
1 Cor. 6:15–20; 1 Thess. 4:1–12	Temptation to sexual immorality	The body is God’s temple; believers are to flee from sexual sins.
1 Cor. 7:1–7	Sexuality within marriage	Intimacy is crucial to the marriage relationship.
1 Cor. 7:8–20, 25–38	Singles and marriage	Paul expresses his own preference for singleness over marriage.
1 Cor. 7:39–40	Remarriage of widows	Remarriage to a believer is completely permissible.
Eph. 5:21–33; Col. 3:18–19; 1 Pet. 3:1–7	Spousal relationships	Paul and Peter challenge husbands and wives to mutual love and support.
Eph. 6:1–4; Col. 3:20–21	Child-parent relationships	The home should be characterized by obedient children and nurturing parents.
1 Tim. 3:1–13; Titus 1:5–16	Character	One of the major areas in which spiritual leaders should be evaluated is the home.
1 Tim. 5:3–16; James 1:27	Widows	Paul offers guidelines for the care of widows; James exhorts believers to meet the needs of widows and orphans.

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