

## Jesus Christ Rose for Us

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1Cor 15:1-11

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### Synopsis:

Everyone who reads the Bible knows that the most problematic church in the New Testament is the church at Corinth. What people don't know is that the moral failures at Corinth were a direct result of the denial of the resurrection of the dead. To counter this error Paul points to the bodily resurrection Jesus, literally the "rising of the corpses." It was a scandal back then and it remains a scandal today.

### I.

#### What is the Gospel?

**1Cor 15:1 "I would remind you . . . of the good news"**

Problems in Corinth: see 1Cor 15:12 (READ)

- an elitist spirituality
- an anti-body spirituality
- results in moral failure on earth

Paul's answer: READ 1-11 again.

**Gospel defined** = an event in our reality, named by God, which we experience, both traditionally and personally, through Jesus Christ preached.

Event = cross and resurrection

Reality = in our space and time

Named = given meaning in Scripture

Experience = both traditional and personal

-traditional = shared and handed on

-personal = touches my life

Jesus Christ = only means

Preached = method by which we encounter the Gospel

**The Gospel is not:**

## II.

### **An Idea but an Event** **1Cor 15:3 “Christ died”**

No philosophy, no way of life, no moral maxim, no sentiment

E.g., Scientology = philosophy (Clearwater, Fla)  
Mormon = lifestyle  
Being Good = “It’s good to be good”  
Experience = feeling, sentiment

\*Spend time talking to Jesus = Jesus in our heart

## III.

### **Otherworldly but This Worldly** **1Cor 15: “He was raised on the third day”**

No need to escape your body, escape our reality to experience it. God comes to us, not vice-versa.

E.g., Ascetic practices, drug induced spirituality, guru

\*Spend time paying attention to what’s happening here and now

## IV.

### **What I Say but What the Bible Says** **1Cor 15:4 “In accordance with the scriptures”**

Who calls the game of life, us or God?

E.g., my experience has integrity  
-feminist  
-environmentalist  
-capitalist  
-gay, straight  
-liberationist  
-white, black, Latino, Asian

\*Spend time reading the Bible = Bible in our hands

## V.

### **Other's Experience but My Experience**

**1Cor 15: 5, 8 "He appeared to Cephas . . . and to me"**

Two sides to this issue, traditional and personal experience

- A. Traditional experience = not my personal experience alone  
E.g., "I come to the garden alone"

Sitting in the pews versus sitting at home alone  
Not elitist but common, not patrician but plebian

Thus, sitting with the congregation is necessary, but also using means to remind us that we have a history (creeds, hymns, prayers).

\*Listen and learn from the creeds

- B. Personal experience = not Mama and Daddy, but mine  
E.g., "Not my mother not my father but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer."

Can't depend on professor, pastor, friend, parent.

The gospel doesn't happen without you.

\*Have you met Jesus as your personal Savior?" not  
"Will you join this institution?"

## VI.

### **Through Other Means but Through Jesus Christ**

**1Cor 15:3 "Christ died for our sins"**

Can I get to God apart from Jesus? No

E.g., America believing in God: Which one?

God sent himself/Jesus in the flesh in order that we fleshly people might get to God. (Athanasius paraphrase)

\*Spend time talking to people about Jesus, not God

## VII.

### **A Private but a Public Matter**

### **1Cor 15:2 “The message that I proclaimed”**

Gospel is a public event

E.g., Former Communist countries banned assembly, this killed Christianity

Faith comes through hearing the word of God (Paul). Thus we need preaching and teaching in public assembly.

\*Come to worship, Go to the community = feet in/out the door

\*Sacrament at the center of the gospel = bodily death/resurrection