

The Resurrection of the Dead

1 Corinthians 15:12-34

Theological Triage

- **Third order doctrines** are those that vary among Christians.
- **Second order doctrines** are those that vary among churches.
- **First order doctrines** are those that distinguish Christians from non-Christians. I

#1: Denying the Resurrection (v. 12)

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

#2: Consequences of Denying Christ's Resurrection (vs. 13-19)

¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

#3: The Firstfruit of Victory (vs. 20-23)

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

#4: Christ's Victory Through Resurrection (vs. 24-28)

²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸ When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

Psalm 8:6

*You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,*

Psalm 110:1

*The Lord says to my Lord:
“Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.”*

#5: Resurrection Living (vs. 29-34)

²⁹ Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? ³⁰ Why are we in danger every hour? ³¹ I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³² What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” ³³ Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” ³⁴ Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

#6: Concluding Questions

1. Do our lives make sense to those who don't know Christ?
2. Where do you look for help?
3. Do you long for a new body?
4. Who is your representative?