

**Truth and Consequences:  
The importance of the Resurrection  
1 Cor 15.12-34**

**Resurrection not reincarnation**

Most people believe in reincarnation, not resurrection.

Reincarnation: we are essentially spiritual beings, a soul that temporarily inhabits a body.

Resurrection: (a) Part of being human is to have a body. Genesis 2.7 says, *“the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”*

(b) We don't exist until we're conceived in our mother's womb. Ps 139.13 says, *“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.”*

(c) We only live and die once. Heb 9.27 says, *“...people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...”*

The Biblical teaching is *resurrection of the body*, not *reincarnation of the soul*. We die once, and at the end of history God raises us from the dead, just like he did Jesus, and gives us new bodies that last forever.

**What if there is no resurrection?**

**There is no forgiveness for sin**

*“... if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.” ...* (Verse 17)

**There is no hope for the future**

*“[T]hose also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.”* (Verse 18)

**There is no point in being a Christian**

*“If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all people.”* (Verse 19)

**But Christ was raised from the dead**

So we can look forward to being raised from the dead too. <sup>21</sup> *For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.* <sup>22</sup> *For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

When he was raised from the dead, Christ inaugurated a new way of being human, a way that lasts forever.

Christ's resurrection holds the promise of eternal life for everyone who belongs to him. *Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.* Eternal life isn't something that human beings have naturally. It's something that Christ gives to those who belong to him.

**Consequences of the resurrection**

**Death is not the end**

The New Testament often speaks of it as “sleep.” Paul talks about *“those who have fallen asleep in Christ,”* and of Christ as *“the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”*

**Death becomes less intimidating**

Even death itself will one day be destroyed. *The last enemy to be destroyed is death.* (Verse 26)

**We can live today in anticipation of Christ's return**

The vision of that better world energises us to make a difference in this world.