

**NOVEMBER 13, 2022**  
**LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**  
**HUMANITY 2.0**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-58**  
**FALL QUARTER WEEK 10 OF 12**

**Getting to Know Each Other Better**

**1. What made you happy this week? And what made you sad?**

Let me start with what made me sad - what made me sad was that Prop. 1 passed in our state. What made me happy was that I got to go up to my parents on Nov. 11 and celebrate my mom's 84th birthday with her and my dad.

How about you?

**Renewed by Grace/Equipped as Disciples**

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-58**

**2. The main point of verses 35-42 have to do with the new immortality we will receive at the resurrection. In what ways is this reality encouraging to you? Why? In what ways is it challenging to you? Why? (See also 2 Timothy 1:10b)**

Here are some of Ryan's comments from his manuscript -

- "There's that terminology about sowing a seed again. It's a key image and metaphor for understanding resurrection. If you read through this whole passage, you'll see that Paul makes the point about perishable vs imperishable FOUR TIMES. I think it's the main distinction between our body now and our resurrected body. We will be raised with new immortality."
  - If your group bogs down in answering this question, you *could* ask them to speculate why it was so important to Paul to mention perishable vs imperishable four times. Why do you think Paul would do this?
- "Does anybody have a few aches and pains that remind them of that fact on a daily basis? Our bodies peak roughly at the age of 30. Eat as much kale as you want, your body is still eventually going to wear down and give out."
- "Apart from Jesus, that trajectory is irreversible. Paul already said that if we die in our sins, we perish (v. 17) and he reiterates that here. However, in Jesus, we are graced with immortality. Listen to the way Paul said it to Timothy, "... our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel... (2 Timothy 1:10b) Apart from him we are painfully mortal but praise God for the gospel! Jesus is king, sin is forgiven, death is defeated... and immortality is ours."

Let me provide my answers to this one. The promise of new immortality encourages me in these ways -

- I am reminded I will never have to die again (and if the rapture happens before I die, I won't even have to die once!).
- It's easier for me to think of facing death if I know I only have to go through it once (know what I mean?).
- The hope and promise of living forever is a glorious truth and such good news which reminds me that I was not originally created to die. Death came as part of the punishment from Adam and Eve's sin in the garden. Had they not done that, none of us would ever taste, or even have the threat of tasting, death.

- I want to live forever. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, “He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” It encourages me to realize that, through Christ, I can have what I want.
- I don’t have to fear death (though I think I do to some degree, and I think everyone does to some degree). But death isn’t the end, eternal life is.
- How about for you?

Here is how the promise of immortality challenges me -

- If I am going to live forever, why do I fear death? Is it death I fear, or is it the process of dying that I fear?
- If I am going to live forever, should I take more risks with my life for the sake of the gospel?
- If I am going to live forever, why do I think about prolonging my life here on this earth for as long as I can? Should I try to live as long as possible down here? What about loved ones? Do I let them down if I leave “early”? Should I worry about cancer screenings? Should I concern myself with vaccinations? Why not die and get death over with and get on with living forever? Why not enter immortality as soon as possible?
- If I am going to live forever, should I even care about my life? If so, why?
- How about for you?

**3. The first part of verse 43 deals with the new beauty we will receive at the resurrection. What does it mean for you to consider that you will be like Jesus in every way and that you will be a beautiful and glorious person? Why? What does it mean for you to consider that you will experience life the way it was always meant to be lived? Why?**

Here is the first part of verse 43, “it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory;”

This question ties in his point about new beauty with his point about new nature and it calls for reflection and discussion about the reality that we will live in sinless perfection with others who live in sinless perfection.

Here are some notes from his manuscript which may be helpful for your discussion -

- “Remember, sin causes us to fall short of the “glory of God,” (Romans 3:23) so if we are raised in “glory,” we must be raised free from sin. That makes sense because we don’t experience death, but it ALSO means that we get to experience life the way that it was always meant to be lived.”
- “At the resurrection, the process of being conformed to the image of Jesus will be completed. We will be like him in every way and we will be beautiful and glorious people. You’ll look like you, but the most beautiful version of you possible.” (Rom. 8:29)
- “Throughout this section, Paul uses the terms “natural” and “spiritual” to address the control center of our lives. Right now we have a “fleshly nature” - which is to say a “sinful nature.” However, at the resurrection, we will have a “spiritual nature” - a nature that is fully submitted to and guided by the spirit of God. The body we have right now is animated and powered by the soul, but the resurrection body will be animated by the spirit. We’ll experience pleasure and joy, but the enemy won’t be able to twist it to make it bad; the spiritual body will never again have the desire to fulfill the insatiable lusts of the flesh! Because at resurrection, we will have a new nature. In the resurrection, we

will faithfully bear his image and likeness, and we'll experience every last drop of the joy of doing so."

Here are some of my thoughts to - "What does it mean for you to consider that you will be like Jesus in every way and that you will be a beautiful and glorious person? Why?"

- For this to be good news, for this to be something that brings delight and joy, I have to be a person who is continuing to want to be like Jesus, and I have to be a person who is fighting against my flesh, and I have to be a person who is frustrated that I am not more holy than I currently am. If I am not that kind of person, then the hope of being like Jesus in every way isn't all that hopeful. But if I am that kind of person, or if I am growing more and more to be that kind of person, then this is extremely hopeful and helpful.
- So I think it would be good for me to pray every day for the desire and ability to grow to be more like Jesus so that the longing of my heart will be satisfied in eternity.
- And I think that it would be good for me to pray for the ability to see how my sinfulness has impacted the lives of others, and especially of those closest to me. I believe this will motivate me to want to be more like Jesus (because I do not want to hurt those I love, including and especially Him).
- I also think I need to consider more what a life free of worry, anxiety, comparison, bitterness, fear and etc would really look like. I'm not sure I even know, since I have lived with these sins my whole life. But to imagine living as that kind of person, and then to ask God to work in my life now to remove those sins, and then to contemplate that they will be gone in eternity, well that is very encouraging.
- It's also encouraging to think about the fact that I won't ever hurt those I love in eternity.
- And that I will never again be hurt by those I love.
- And that I can fully enjoy relationship with them and they can fully enjoy relationship with me.
- Ultimately, I need to grow more at being fully sold out on being like Jesus and on fighting against the sin still plaguing me.
- How would you respond to this question?

Here are some of my thoughts to - "What does it mean for you to consider that you will experience life the way it was always meant to be lived? Why?"

- This is very good news.
- Like I wrote about above, it is somewhat unimaginable for me to consider living without the presence of sin in my heart. It has always been there. And there seem to be certain sins that I fight against still. And then there seem to be new ones popping up that I didn't know about a few years ago.
- But I know that the fullness of joy comes from living a sinless life. And I know I was created to live a sinless life.
- But I don't know what it's like to not have to fight sin.
- But contemplating that I will get to experience life the way it was always meant to be lived brings me great joy.
- How would you respond to this question?

- 4. The second part of verse 43 deals with the new strength we will receive at the resurrection. What are some of the possibilities Pastor Ryan raised as he contemplated what this new strength might mean for us? What are your thoughts about that? What does it mean for you to**

**consider that you will have the ability to comprehend and understand the love of God in ways you cannot right now? (see Ephesians 3:16-19)**

Here is the second part of verse 43, “it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;”

Here is some of what Ryan said, as it relates to some of the possibilities this new strength might mean for us. This may help with the discussion.

- “We’re not sure of all the ways our resurrected body will be more filled with energy and power, but we do know that we will have a **new strength**. God has created this world for us to enjoy. (1 Tim. 6:17) **What if our resurrected bodies will be more capable than our current bodies to enjoy the work of our Creator’s hands?** What if, unbound from sin, we’re able to **create more beauty**? What if the **musicians** among us are capable of making such beautiful music that it makes us weep for joy? We already know that music is a part of heaven, it will certainly be a part of new creation too. What if we’re able to stand on **top of a mountain** and really take in the beauty of what we see? What if we’re able to **ride a wave** and experience the fullness of euphoric joy of feeling that wave crash around you? What if our **taste buds** are more receptive to culinary delight? No more COVID wiping out or dulling our taste. I don’t think that’s too much of a stretch; the culmination of God’s restored creation is described as a wedding supper! ***You’ll get to eat great food and you won’t put on weight. You’ll get to eat healthy food and it’ll actually taste good.***”

What are some of your thoughts about this new strength to be able to more fully and completely enjoy creation? Here are some of mine -

- First of all, I love the ocean BUT I get seasick. I am looking forward to being able to go out on the ocean and not have to worry about any of that.
- Second of all, I love creation - the mountains and the snow, the beaches and the sand, the forests and the trees - and I very much look forward to experiencing them fully for eternity. There are places I want to go - Fiji, the Swiss Alps, the Canadian Rockies, the tip of the Arctic - and I look forward to going there.
- Third of all, I love a good steak with butter melted on top of it and a twice baked potato with lots of butter and sour cream. I look forward to eating that at a nice restaurant.
- Fourth of all, I am allergic to fish, but I know there is some fish out there that I would really like to eat. I look forward to eating it someday.
- The ability to enjoy God’s creation, and then to praise Him for it, is something I look forward to.
- How about you?

Here are some of my thoughts in response to, “What does it mean for you to consider that you will have the ability to comprehend and understand the love of God in ways you cannot right now?”

- First, here is the verse in Ephesians. “16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:16-19)”

- I know that there is nothing greater than to comprehend the love of Christ and to be filled with all the fullness of God. I know that this is the fullness of joy. So I very much look forward to it! Comprehending it, experiencing it, will be unlike anything I have ever experienced, and after having experienced it, I will never want to be in a place where I don't experience it, and I will be eternally grateful that I will never have to be.
- I get glimpses of it as I grow in my relationship with Christ and I get to have those moments where His love floods over me. I look forward to those moments being eternal and complete.
- How about you?

5. **Pastor Ryan made a point of tying verses 36-37 to Jesus' words in John 12:24-25. The principle he drew out from these verses is that death leads to life (and not just in the resurrection, but also in life in general). Can you think of examples from your own life that illustrate this principle? Are there any areas of your life where you sense God is calling you to die so that life might follow? Would you be willing to share that with your group? (It's okay if you don't want to.)**

I've written about this and talked with some of you. I've been on a journey the last two to three years of having to die to some dreams I had. The death of those dreams has led to new life in ways I could never have imagined. The death was painful, but the new life is joyful.

I do have an area, but I'm going to keep it to myself.

#### **Sent in Love**

6. **How would you like to apply this week's message?**  
I need to think and pray more.