

DIMENSIONS

Series Resources

Dimensions

Easter

1 Corinthians 15:1–20

The gospel is good news. And it is good news for so many reasons. During the season of Lent, Christians take time to reflect on the death of Jesus, his excruciating death on the cross for us. The cross of Jesus has many dimensions, and its dimensions are integrated. The cross of Jesus is an integrated, multidimensional atonement. It's multidimensional in that the cross of Jesus accomplished much. It's integrated in that everything the cross accomplished is related. And it's atonement because his death accomplished something between God and humanity.

But how do we know the cross worked? Easter is the confirmation needed. Jesus' resurrection confirms Jesus' crucifixion. The defeat of sin leads to the defeat of death. And the defeat of death leads to life.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

1 Corinthians 15:1–20

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, **2** and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, **5** and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. **6** Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. **7** Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. **8** Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. **9** For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **10** But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. **11** Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

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? **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.

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- How does Paul describe the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15? What does he include and what does he leave out, and what does this tell you about the gospel?
- One of the key elements of Paul's argument for the resurrection is the multitude of eyewitnesses to the resurrection of Jesus. How does this make you feel regarding the historicity of the resurrection?
- Paul makes a persuasive argument in 1 Corinthians 15:12–19. Go back, trace Paul's argument, and describe in your own words the argument he makes.
- In verse 17, Paul writes, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." How is the resurrection of Jesus tied to our sin? (Hint: Think about what Jesus defeated in the resurrection and how that is tied to sin).
- How does the resurrection of Jesus confirm the crucifixion of Jesus?

- One of the Scriptures that Jesus quotes from the cross is Psalm 22:1: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” The chance that Jesus not only knew *and* quoted the whole psalm is high. Read Psalm 22. Pay particular attention to verses 19–31. How do these verses point to the hope of Jesus’ resurrection?
- Why is both the crucifixion and the resurrection needed for life?
- How then should we live in light of Jesus’ resurrection and our coming resurrection?
- Why then is the resurrection of Jesus the ultimate hope in our lives?