



What will we look like in heaven?

The apostle Paul answers this question in 1 Corinthians 15 (often known as "the Resurrection chapter" since the focus of the entire chapter is on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead - and what it means for us).

But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. All flesh is not the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

1 Cor. 15:35_49

From what Paul says we can conclude a couple of things:

1) We will have a human body. The same one we had while we were alive. Apparently some folks had the idea that on the last day when our spirits are reunited with our bodies, that our spirit would be put into some other kind of body - that of an animal or bird or fish or even a star. Paul plainly tells us that the kind of body we had on earth is the kind of body we will have in eternity. You won't be a fish or bird or a star or even an angel. You will have your body.

2) Our human body will be like Jesus' body after he rose from the grave. It will be a "glorified, spiritual body" not subject to the confinement of time and space. It will not be subject to decay, injury, illness or death. In other words, your resurrected body will not perish but will last forever!

What an awesome thing to look forward to. Thank God for the death and resurrection of his Son that makes all of this possible! And what better way to thank him than by coming to worship on the day of His resurrection.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to <mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net>