

- A. The Apostles' Creed moves us from the crucifixion, death and burial of Jesus to His Resurrection by stating, "The third day he rose again from the dead."
- 1) The Creed asserts what the Bible boldly proclaims—that Christ Jesus defeated death and was resurrected from the grave.
  - 2) Could such a thing be true?
- B. The Apostle Paul, who was a one-time denier of the Resurrection of Jesus, gives the most extensive treatment on Jesus' resurrection in 1 Cor. 15. Paul does 4 things as he communicates the resurrection.
- 1) *He authenticates the historicity of the resurrection (v. 1-9). The Resurrection is historical reality.*
    - i. He's challenging anyone who doubted in Jesus' resurrection to talk to the eye-witnesses.
    - ii. He's presenting the lines of evidence to consider. There are three lines of evidence that intertwine that if we're intellectually honest will convince us that Jesus really rose from the dead. The evidence is...
      1. The Empty Tomb. Nobody debates the tomb was empty.
      2. The Huge Number of Eye-Witnesses. Over a 6 week period, hundreds of people saw the Risen Christ on different occasions and in different places.
      3. The Impact of Jesus' Disciples. Why would these men, who fled and hid from the Jews and Romans all of a sudden become bold and to grow in size and devotion? Answer: Jesus really rose from the grave.
  - 2) *He announces the complete forgiveness of sins (12-19). The Resurrection is proof that Christ's sacrifice was enough.*
    - i. Rom. 4:25
    - ii. 1 Pet. 1:3
    - iii. Because the Resurrection occurred, it's proof positive that all of our sins have been paid for and we've been forgiven.
  - 3) *He assures us of our future, physical resurrection (35-43).*

- i. Only the Gospel promises us not just new minds and new hearts, but new bodies as well!
  - ii. Which means that no matter how old you may be, no matter how broken down your body may feel, because the Resurrection is true, your best days are still in front of you.
  - iii. This should fill you with tremendous gratitude and hope!
- 4) *He anchors our joy and service in the resurrection (56-58).*
  - i. His victory is given to us, which fills us with joy
  - ii. And propels out in service—Paul says we should be “always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”
- C. Jesus’ Resurrection is true and calls for a response.
  - 1) If you’re a skeptic, embrace the reality of the resurrection.
    - i. Not just as an idea, but as a Person, the Risen Christ.
    - ii. John 11 Jesus says, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet he shall live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”
    - iii. If you’re a skeptic, you need to be challenged by the reality of the resurrection, and then converted to the Risen Christ who defeated death, was raised to a new quality of life and offers this new life to you.
  - 2) If you’re a Believer, you can simply rest and rejoice in the resurrection.
    - i. He has paid for your sins in His death.
    - ii. He has given you new life through His resurrection.
    - iii. This enables you to fully live and to fully love right now and like Christ, to pour yourself out for the needs of the world.