

Reflection Questions: 1 Corinthians 15:1-9

For the message, "The Resurrection Changes Everything" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church on April 1, 2018

These discussion questions are designed primarily to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the sermon, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-9

A summary of the message: The gospel ("good news") of Jesus Christ includes the essential good news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In fact, Paul tells us that this is of "first importance."

Key Points:

- There was an execution ("Christ died for our sins"), an empty tomb ("he was raised on the third day"), and there were eyewitnesses (he appeared to Cephas [Peter], James, the apostles, Paul, and more than 500 hundred witnesses at one time).
- This is the heart of the "gospel" which brings salvation if embraced (1 Corinthians 15:1-2).

Key Quotes:

- The Apostle Peter in Acts 2, "This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses."
- Blaise Pascal, "I believe those witnesses that get their throats cut."
- Ken Samples, "The idea that Jesus truly did rise from the dead is indeed the most dangerous idea on Earth, for it tells us that not all men stay dead. Given the inevitability of death, this truth is the greatest news that mortal human beings could ever hope to hear."

Bottom Line:

- Jaroslav Pelikan, "If Christ is risen, nothing else matters. And if Christ is not—nothing else matters."
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Let's get started...

Woody Allen once quipped, "My relationship with death remains the same. I am strongly against it." What do you make of his sentiments? In what ways can you identify with what he said? How does it illuminate the human problem?

QUESTIONS

1. **How does this text apply to your life?**

- How are you challenged, convicted, encouraged, or surprised by this text?
- How does this text help us to understand our personal stories in the light of God's story of redemption?

- In light of this text, how would you answer the question, “What kind of me is God calling me to be?”

2. How does this text apply to us as a community of folks who are interested in what it means to follow Jesus?

- How is this text inviting us to participate in a community that exists for something greater than our own wants and needs?
- What is the cost if we are not transformed by this text? In other words, what is lost if we ignore the message?

3. How does this text apply to our city?

- How does this text challenge the thinking of our city?
- How does this text serve as Good News for those who have not yet embraced its message?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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