



**Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians Wk. 41**  
**Denying the Evidence of the Resurrection**  
**By Pastor Jody May 03/15/2026**

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**1 Corinthians 1:25** - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

**Uncommon Sense** - *"God's Wisdom over man's pride through a Flawed Church."*

**[CALL TO HEAR]**

**1 Corinthians 15:12-19 ESV**

**The Resurrection of the Dead**

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

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**Pastor - "People of God, this is the Word of God."**

**People - "Thanks be to God."**

**Pray**

**Illustration**

A Counselor funny joke I like to use with people sometimes, is, *"Denial, it's just not a river in Egypt, you know?"* Denial is a psychological practice whereby an individual protects themselves from perceived danger/harm by ignoring their current situations and emotions.

In the grieving process Denial is one of the stages that they say people must get through. The 5 stages of grief are denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. People have said that you have to go through all of them to ever get over grief, I don't know if I buy all of that, but this much I do know, if



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you don't ever get through that first stage of denial, grieving is an impossibility. Denial is also that part of our human nature that when we find ourselves in real danger, we freeze instead of flee. How many times in a Jurassic Park movie have you seen that form of Denial play out?

Make no mistake, unless you deal with denial, which is first to admit that we all have used it from time to time and have found it effective, you will find it hard to overcome in your life. Denial also makes it hard to move on from sinful patterns that spring up in your life. You see we as people love to satiate our sinful hearts by feeding fleshly desires, and what makes it hard to give up such sin is the **power of Denial** to ourselves and everyone else, that what we are doing is really wrong. No one likes to admit when they are wrong, or when they are wronging others, and above all when they are wronging Christ, all because this reality makes us very acute and aware of pain.

### **Introduction**

In Paul's day, in this letter to the Corinthians, they had a problem with Denial as well. They were functioning in a way that they were in denial about their behaviors because they were first in denial of the most basic truth in all of the Gospel, that **Jesus rose from the grave**. There were people in the Corinthian church that rejected that truth and therefore were living a sub-par Christian life. They had deceived themselves into living any way they wanted, ignoring the helpful rebuking of the law, and in return they were hurting others, and they were hurting the testimony of Christ. This in turn was jeopardizing any chance of Salvation for they were tainting the main truth of the Gospel, turning their version of Christianity into something that is not Christianity at all, they were hardening their hearts against conviction. Christianity in Corinth was in danger of becoming like every other Greek Religion in that city, based on desires of self that showed in the worship of a false god that could not deliver. It was leading them to an eternal death instead of everlasting life.

**MP**

***Devote yourself not to deception for denial delivers death.***



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The Gospel family compels us to accept the truth of scripture, to be convicted of it, calls us to put our trust in Jesus for forgiveness and a change of heart, and then says now go and sin no more. Today we will learn that lesson by looking at what I think is the Corinthian's most dangerous lesson yet, and that is Denial of the Resurrection will bring them Death, but the acceptance of the resurrection will bring them new and abundant life! So, we will first look at these **denialists and perhaps where that came from**, why were they rejecting the resurrection. Then secondly, we will look at the **destructiveness of denial** and all the different ways that the rejection of the resurrection puts one in danger. Then lastly, we will look at the solution, **determination not to be deceived**, and that when we accept the Gospel, the scripture as authoritative, the truth of the resurrection, there is so much blessing in store for God's people.

So, let's devote ourselves family not to denial nor self-deception but to be determined to accept the good news, that we serve a risen Savior, today.

### **1. Denialists Discovered.**

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

Paul starts out building on what we talked about last week. That word 'Now' functions the same way as 'therefore'. Paul means that 'Word' in which I called you to stand last week (3); of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand and by which you are being saved (2). That Christ was buried and raised on the third day (4) and that we are changed by the Grace of this act (10). The message that I started the church in Corinth with, the doctrine I taught you, the only reason the Gospel works, for it proclaims all were saved by that man's (Jesus) actions which were shown to be true, perfect, and enough by that resurrection (vindication), how come some of you are saying that there is now NO resurrection!?

That's not how we started what has happened to some of you? We have a party of insurrectionists in the church; people who said they were saved by



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Grace through faith in a **RISEN SAVIOR** but the actions they are displaying shows anything but that. You see I think this unearths some of the mysteries of Corinth.

It starts with the foolishness of man's pride, and key people in Corinth who thought they understood Christianity better than the Apostles (1:10-4:21). People that tolerated sexual promiscuity that went above normal accepted behaviors in Corinth (5:1-13: 6:12-20); Lawsuits among believers (6:1-11); participation in pagan feasts (chs. 8-10); Lord's Supper abuses (11:17-34); Elevation and lofty pride over fake spiritual gifting (10-12). **All of these things have something in common.** You see if you deny the resurrection, then it **reduces the Gospel to mere activism/moralistic projection**, or just another form of Greek Stoicism, promoted as a behavioral scheme for social elevation. You see, if one claims to be as smart as the Apostles one can manipulate the Gospel into a set of rules allowing oneself to follow what you want when it suites you.

But it starts with the fact that the Corinthians were plagued by a philosophical belief pre-existent before Paul's arrival: **Platonism's body-soul dualism.**

Explanation:

- In mainstream Greek thought (especially Platonism and Middle Platonism), the "immortality of the soul" was affirmed while the body was viewed as **a lower, transient prison**. This made a physical, bodily resurrection seem either impossible or undesirable. Classic Platonic texts (e.g., Phaedo) prize the soul's release from the body, not its restoration.
- In the broader Greco-Roman milieu, Epicureans denied any afterlife at all (pure materialism), and most Stoics did not expect individual bodily resurrection, but rather cyclical cosmic renewal. None of these schools affirmed the Jewish-Christian hope of a future bodily resurrection.

What that means is you either treated your life as a test of denying oneself as in stoicism, because the flesh is evil and is to be rejected. Perhaps through



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your earthly efforts you might gain a better standing in the ethereal/strictly spiritual afterlife.

OR

Since the flesh is what is fallen, your desires cannot be helped, a Sovereign God caused you to be that way, you accept it, but falling into temptation would be expected. Therefore, resist where you can but don't sweat it if you fail for the body is corrupted beyond repair, you won't be tempted by it anyway in the afterlife, it really isn't your fault if you are controlled by desires.

Currently this is where people like a [James Talarico](#) from Texas (who just beat our Jasmine Crockett) who is claiming to be a seminary trained Christian, who claims God is non-binary, there are 6 sexes, God asked permission from Mary to carry Jesus first, Jesus was a feminist (using the Gospel of Thomas) and a transgender ally, supports government mandated wealth redistribution, and is pro-open borders. Christianity is redefined as all things for all men, indulge your desires (that's Platonist thinking in the modern world). The leftists like David French support people like James over the fear of us all becoming CNs; another sermon for another time. **The flesh to people like James cannot be denied and because God's ultimate aim is your immediate happiness, you don't have to be worried about being judged over sin in the flesh.**

What Paul had in his day was a bunch of people who lied in their testimonies, who said they believed in the resurrection, but if they did, they would have embraced their life in the flesh and treated not their body as the source of evil, nor would they have indulged in all their passions. **It is one's heart that is sinful in desires**, and the saved person accepts the body is fallen hence its' decaying process and weakness, but they know it is the heart that produces man-made desires, addictions, and hungers to help satiate man's emptiness.

The flesh, since the beginning in Genesis, is neither given for self-glorification nor for self-gratification. Our **bodies are a gift from God, created as God so chose it**, so that we may **live out a life of worship**. It is a life whereby we deny self-lusts, and pick up our crosses and follow Him, and thereby we are caught up in a greater joy in living for Him and not for oneself.



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The Denialists were discovered, they were people that thought the flesh was to be despised or the things we do in it are not important, don't be like that family. **Devote yourself not to deception for denial delivers only a dead end.**

## **2. Destructiveness of Denial.**

<sup>13</sup>But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

Paul, we are going to see now, builds up a very logical defense for the resurrection trying to curtail the destructiveness of these Deniers of the cornerstone of the Christian faith.

### **The Destructiveness of Denial undercuts the Theology of Gospel/Christianity.**

v.13 - If there is no resurrection of the dead then Christ is not raised **and 'if' He is not raised there is no Gospel.** It means that Jesus' humanity is not important, that He did not come and live in the flesh: Peter called Him though a man **approved by God - Acts 2:22**; Paul says His **coming in the flesh** was preordained as a **sign of the first incarnation - Gal 4:4**; and what must always be accepted and never denied:

### **Hebrews 2:17-18 ESV**

<sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to be **made like his brothers** in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>For because he himself has **suffered when tempted**, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Jesus was a man, that lived a human life, to go through temptations as we did, to save us by the covenant of works that we were given. He became a propitiation, a replacement for our real punishment, and His reward was to be elevated to the Father's right hand ruling over all creation ensuring our future resurrection. If there is no resurrection, we deny Jesus' humanity and what He accomplished in a physical life. When you do that, again you can make up



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any behavior system you want, you can say silly things like Jesus was a feminist, and He only cares about your immediate earthly happiness, because it just doesn't matter. No, Jesus accepted all the law as truth for Him to live out in a physical form: **both the righteousness He must fulfill and the consequences He must absorb**, because your behavior now, judged by the law matters, because that is how GOD SEES IT!

Paul keeps building on this now in a logical sequence.

If He isn't resurrected, then our preaching is in vain (14). All we have taught you, how it works, what He has saved you from and what He has saved you to, it was all in vain. Therefore, what's worse that means your faith is in vain (14). What you believe in doesn't matter as well. It doesn't matter what rules you try to make up, what worldly practice you try to adopt, what fleshly practice you try to sneak into the church, the faith doesn't exist, there is no Christianity!

**The Destructiveness of Denial undercuts all Apostolic Teaching and Authority.**

<sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised

So not just Paul but all the Apostles are liars, they misrepresent God, they are what we call in modern vernacular *gas-lighters*. They are making claims that their authority and their teachings are based on the resurrection of a risen Savior and those future promises for man. If there is no resurrection, then the Apostles are merely using the Hope of it as a way of getting something from the people.

What makes that really bad is if any of that teaching on the resurrection is not true, **then you are still dead in your sins**. That means a Christ, an anointed one for you, was not raised to live for you, to impart His righteousness to you, because He had taken sins from you. All of that was a lie, you have not a good standing with God, you are still lost in your sins, and even if you adhere to a Platonic philosophy, your spiritual eternity is damned in a torment away from



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God, not with Him. If you are saying there is no resurrection of the dead, then you are saying that Christ is not raised for He was a man, and therefore you have no Savior Corinthian Greeks, because the Christ for us Gentiles was to replace our representative Adam, our first king.<sup>1</sup>

**1 Cor 15:45-46 ESV**

<sup>45</sup>Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup>But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual.

**Romans 5:19 ESV**

<sup>19</sup>For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

If you do not believe in the resurrection, you have no figure head to lead, to give, to claim the promises of a perfect life, and the Apostolic teachings offer false hope.

**The Destructiveness of Denial undercuts ALL Future Hope.**

<sup>17</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

If there is no resurrection then your faith, what you believe in, is futile, because it cannot save you. That means everyone who has gone before us lived a lie, they are just dead and gone, and we will never see them again:

All the OT saints and authors of this Faith, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Gideon, Samson, Barak, Jephthah, Samuel, Elijah, Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and all of the rest. It is all a farce because they looked forward to Jesus' day, the rest they would receive when God would remake creation. All the heroes of faith we find in Hebrews 11, they just don't matter now. People who were mocked, scourged, imprisoned, stoned, sawn in half, slain, murdered, the wanderers'/outcasts/

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2015%3A45-49%3B%20Romans%205%3A12-21&version=ESV>



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dejected/evicted/dispersed with no physical home. All those who held to faith to God are lost they will NEVER be resurrected for no one has ever done it. The dead have no HOPE, and therefore you will have no HOPE and ALL is in vain! Why would we worry about eschatology, a Millenium Kingdom, a new heaven and new earth (Rev 21)? It's not for us anyways IF we deny the resurrection! You won't be around to enjoy it!

**<sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.**

If Christianity is only about this life now, we are to be pitied, for life is only a façade of things to come that you will never be able to enjoy. To walk in a new creation, no new physical life, no bodies unplagued by disease, no perfect fulfilled enjoyment of a perfect creation in the future, no interactions with resurrected loved ones, NO REUNIONS! It just doesn't matter what we do if our future is not anchored into a very real and tangible earthly life.

Family, ***Devote yourself not to deception for denial delivers a permanent physical death with no realized glorification of God.***

### **3. Determination not to be Deceived.**

Well, PJ what is the alternative. The alternative is to reject the schemes of the Devil and the waywardness of man and be determined not to be deceived. Don't forget that all of what we believe and hope in is based in ***Sola Scriptura*** NOT humanistic philosophy. Because it is all true!

Because Christ is raised all of what we have said in point 2 is turned on its' head!

Determining to believe truth builds the theology of Gospel/Christianity, the truth the Apostles taught, and a hope in a Physical Resurrection.

**Preaching is Powerful and True!**

**Romans 1:16 ESV**



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For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**Hebrews 4:12 ESV**

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

We determine to believe the Word of God, the Apostolic Teachings, as they were handed down in the beginning. The Power of God's Word CAN change your life for the better NOW! It is real power for your life, it can save!

**Faith is Living and Effectual!**

**James 5:16 ESV**

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Because He is risen, He hears your prayers, when we confess our sins, because He understands your temptation, and He knows exactly how to help you in your times of need!

**1 Co 10:13 ESV**

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

The physical fleshly desires can be overcome with strength from Christ, for He wants you to succeed!

**The Apostles bore a True Witness, and all sins are forgiven in Christ!**

**Colossians 2:12-14 ESV**

<sup>12</sup>having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the



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dead.<sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,<sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Your sins are forgiven, because Jesus put them on the cross with Him, and His physical resurrection is a sign of what happens to the person without sin. If your sin was buried with Christ, then according to the law from the Garden of Eden, we have eaten from the Tree of Life, and we too will live forever with Him in a physical paradise.

**The dead in Christ sleep, but they shall rise again!**

**1 Thessalonians 4:16 ESV**

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the **dead in Christ will rise first.**

ALL our hope surpasses the boundaries of this life, we are the most to be envied, to be joyful, for we contain the greatest outlook for a glorious future! **Determine not be deceived** family by **determining to believe** in what you find in **God's Word!**

**[CALL TO OBEY]**

- **Repent of Functional Denial and Confess True Faith.**

Renounce any thought, word, or habit that treats the body as either meaningless (license to do wrong, it doesn't really matter how we live) or inherently evil (legalistic living/ living only to receive rewards in heaven, stoicism)! Both deny the belief in the resurrection, the flesh even though fallen should be treated as something that will be redeemed, respected, and to be revered.

- **Honor God with your body now, because it will be raised up again!**

Obey: Flee sexual immorality, reject self-indulgence, and embrace disciplined, thankful use of your body for worship, work, and service (1 Cor



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6:19–20; Rom 12:1). This week: Make one concrete change—end a secret sin, set digital boundaries, or begin a simple rule of bodily stewardship (sleep, modesty, temperance) as an act of resurrection hope.

- **Why: The body is not a prison to escape but a creation to be redeemed.** Resurrection denies both hedonism and disdain for the body.

- **Grieve and hope as resurrection people.**

Obey: Comfort the grieving with promised bodily resurrection; order funerals and graveside practices to confess that the body is sown in hope (1 Thess 4:13–18; 1 Cor 15:42–44).

- This week: Memorize 1 Cor 15:17 and 15:58. Write a note or make a visit to someone in sorrow, speaking the sure hope of Christ's victory over death.

- **Why: The dead in Christ have not perished;** without resurrection that would be true, but Christ's rising secures theirs.

**MP:**

***Devote yourself not to deception for denial delivers death.***

Family my prayer for you is that you live not in denial, yes life is short but what we do and how we live in this life matters, for it all reflects whether we truly believe in the resurrection. May we all live this week in a deeper connection to the hope that we too will all rise again!

**Prayer**

**Communion**

**1 Corinthians 11:23–26 ESV**

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."<sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."<sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



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Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. He walked this world conscious of the mandate from the garden, cast into a fallen world of our creation, and still fulfilled all the requirements of the OT law. He treated His body as a living temple of the most high God everyday of His life earning the righteousness we could never achieve. Praise be to our King, the new Adam, who loved the Father with perfect obedience.

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. We never accepted our flesh as something to be used solely for God but instead we all have used it to bring self-gratification. We raised up ourselves as something to be loved more than God, and in return we showed our disdain for God by the rejection and death of His Son. His perfect life produced a perfect untainted blood, given to cover that sin, so we could know the beauty of getting to live a future perfect physical life. Thanks be to our High Priest and King for His eternal perfect love!

**[CONFESSION OF FAITH]**

\* The Congregation will stand

Elder - **"Christians, what do we believe?"** Congregation - recites:

**LBCF 1689 Chapter 31, Of the State of Man after Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead, Paragraph 2, The Last Day**

At the last day, saints who are still alive will not sleep, but will be changed. 5 Also, all the dead will be raised up with their own bodies, and not any other body, 6 although these bodies will have different qualities. These bodies will be united again to their souls forever. 7

5. 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; 6. Job 19:26-27; 7. 1 Corinthians 15:42-43

**[OFFERING+LAST SONG] "Jesus!"**

**[BENEDICTION]**



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Go in the name of the Father, that provided a way to inherit a future resurrected life, through His son, the Tree of Life.

Go in the name of the Son, that endured our scorn in a fallen physical world so that He might make a way for us to live with Him forever.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that opens our eyes to the Truth of Scripture, that convicts of Denial, that empowers our determination for faith, and creates divine appointments to share this good news with others.



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**[FELLOWSHIP CONVERSATIONS]**

- Where do you see Paul tying our forgiveness (“not still in our sins”) directly to Christ’s bodily resurrection, and how does that strengthen your assurance this week?
- If Christ were not raised, Paul says preaching and faith are empty. How does the historical, bodily resurrection shape the way we share the gospel with friends and family?
- Paul says those who have “fallen asleep in Christ” have not perished if Jesus is risen. How does this truth comfort us in grief, and how can we better speak this hope to one another?
- What present sacrifices or choices only make sense because Christ is risen (v. 19)? Where might the resurrection call our family to courage or perseverance right now?
- How does union with Christ (if He lives, we live) reframe our identity and daily habits—prayer, repentance, work, parenting, hospitality—so that they are resurrection-shaped



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