

What If

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Corinthians 15:12-20.

B. Christians have to live under constant pressure for their faith.

C. There are days when Christianity feels like a delusion.

D. The people in Corinth were concerned about getting the most out of life now since they were denying that they were going to rise from the dead bodily.

II. The greatest bodily enjoyment will come ahead, so one does not need to feel deprived if he does not receive it in this life.

A. We do not lose the pleasures of the body forever—we will enjoy them more than ever before in the resurrection of the dead.

B. Nothing is permanently lost—the resurrected body awaits us.

III. If Christ was not raised...

A. All preaching is a total waste of time.

B. All Christian faith is useless.

C. The Apostles are the world's greatest liars.

D. All our sins of the past are still with us.

E. Those that have died are gone forever.

F. We are to be pitied most of all men.

IV. Jesus has risen from the dead, which is the fundamental fact of faith. This is where doubt dies.

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that all pleasures of the body are bad?

2. Do all people claiming to be Christians today understand the resurrection of the body? If not, what is the contrary belief?

3. Is the resurrection of the body central to Christian belief? Defend your answer.
