

Friends,

As we continue in the Easter season, I continue thinking about the various ways the Bible talks about the resurrection. In line with this, I was recently looking at the 15th chapter of Corinthians. The 15th chapter of Corinthians exhorts readers about the importance of Jesus's physical, bodily resurrection, stating that if there was no bodily resurrection "our faith is useless" (verse 14). But later we come to verse 50, where Paul says that "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." On the surface Paul's statement seems to directly contradict what he has been teaching prior to this about the importance of a bodily, physical resurrection. There will be a bodily resurrection, yet flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom? What's that all about?

What Paul is telling us is that our bodies must be changed in order to be restored and resurrected to new life. In our current state, we cannot be resurrected. We are mortal creatures with bodies that break down, and are subject to all kinds of sickness (as the coronavirus has reminded us). And because of that, our bodies must be changed, but in a way that we cannot even imagine or achieve right now.

In our culture, we're always looking to overcome age. We're always looking to stay young. Every day we see a new diet that's supposed to help us live a longer life, or a new product that is supposed to make us look younger, or a new home gym or fitness program which is supposed to make us seem more in shape than we probably are. Meanwhile, millions of people get plastic surgery every year to feel better about the way they look and how old they are.

While many put their faith in a new diet or drug to help them overcome death, we must remember that these things will always fail. We cannot overcome death. Only God can do that. And therefore, we're called to instead put our faith in God. To stand firm in the hope that God will truly give our bodies new life one day, just like he did for Jesus. This is a hope that no diet or drug can offer us.

On the journey with you,
Pastor Jordan