

Christian Beliefs Week 16: Teaching

Ch 15: What do Death, Glorification, and Union with Christ entail?

Intro: Any steps of faith to share?

Today, we are going to answer these questions: Why do Christians die? What happens to our bodies and souls when we die? When will we receive our resurrected bodies? What will they be like? What does it mean to be “united with Christ?”

Why do Christians die?

How should we think of our own death and the death of others?

How are we to respond to the death of unbelievers?

What happens when people die?

Did Old Testament believers enter immediately into God’s presence?

What is Glorification?

- Glorification is the final step in the application of redemption. It will happen when Christ returns, raising from the dead the bodies of all believers for all time who have died, reuniting them with their souls, and changing the bodies of all believers who remain alive, thereby giving all believers at the same time perfect resurrection bodies like His own.

What will our resurrection bodies be like?

What does Union with Christ entail?

- We are in Christ.
- Christ is in us.
- We are like Christ.
- We are with Christ.
- We are also brought into union with the Father and Holy Spirit.

Discussion:

- What, if anything, do you fear about death? How would the teachings of Scripture encourage you to deal with these fears?
- What is there to look forward to in death?
- Why do we still experience death today?
- Do you think you would have the courage to refuse to sin even if it meant being thrown into the lions in a Roman coliseum, burned at the stake during the Reformation, or thrown to prison for years in some foreign country today? Have you settled in your mind that obedience to Christ is more important than preserving your life?
- If death itself is viewed as part of the process of sanctification, then how should we view the process of growing older and weaker in this world?
- Have you previously thought of doing the actions that you do each day 'in Christ'?