

#4

THE RESURRECTION CONNECTION

(1Corinthians 15:20-28)

1. REMEMBERING In his message, Dr. Ewing called the resurrection of Jesus:

- a) Two parts of a single event
- b) Two stages of a single process
- c) The first act in a two-act drama

What was your understanding of these descriptions by the end of the message?

2. REFLECTING In your own words, how would you describe the connection between the resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of believers when Jesus returns?

3. DISCOVERING 1Cor 15:20-28 is a comparison and contrast between the consequences of being *in Adam* and the consequences of being *in Christ*. Read it below and answer the questions that follow.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²²For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³But each in turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. ²⁸When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

- How does the term “first fruits” complement your description of resurrection in question #2?
- What does it mean to be “in Adam” and how does one get there?
- What does it mean to be “in Christ” and how does one get there?
- What are the consequences Paul lists of: a) being *in Adam*, and b) being *in Christ*?
- How might you articulate the main point behind the descriptions in vv. 24-28?
- Imagine the implications of v. 26. What will that look like?

4. CONNECTING What kind of behaviors—attitudes and actions—do you anticipate would result if you lived each day like you were *in Christ*?

5. RESPONDING We are both *in Adam* and *in Christ*. What is something specific you could do this week to increase your awareness of the blessings of being *in Christ* and live accordingly?

**One short sleep past, we wake eternally, and death shall be no more;
Death, thou shalt die!**

(John Donne, *Holy Sonnet #10*)