

What's the Point?

1 Corinthians 15:12-34

Paul goes to great lengths to expand the imaginations of some Corinthians around Jesus' resurrection and their own. There are different opinions and beliefs circulating that he's trying to correct. The main question from Paul to the believers in Corinth is this: What's the point?!?!? If there is no resurrection, what are we even doing? These verses are meant to expand our sense of awe and wonder precisely because Jesus rose from the dead.

Thinking It Through (agree/disagree, consider/contemplate)

Gradually the sense of wonder gets squeezed out of us because knowledge and competence become the key measures and pursuits of adult life. - Eugene Peterson

To have a spiritual imagination is to have eyes to see God's world for what it truly is: the ground where God fills the whole earth with his glory. When God fills the world, we discover every conversation and vocation and human endeavor to be a burning bush. Holiness everywhere. God everywhere. – Winn Collier

If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. - CS Lewis

Working It Out

1. When is the last time you can remember being truly captured in wonder, awe, or imagination (the imaginary conversation you won in your head doesn't count)?
2. Read the Peterson quote above. In your own faith journey and life overall, where have you seen this in play? What's the danger?
3. After reading the Collier quote above, what do you notice about the expansiveness of the kind of imagination being talked about? What might this do in your relationships, interactions, work life, marriage, etc.? Dream a bit. Imagine if you dare.
4. Why is it that Christians tend to think of the resurrection at Easter, or perhaps when a loved one dies, but the resurrection doesn't shape the rest of life, the ordinary, mundane parts of life?
5. Read the Lewis quote above. What does it spark in you? Where do your thoughts go?

Prayer Points

- Pray that those in our fellowship would be awakened to the kind of life that isn't oriented around competence, certainty, or control. That we would be willing and eager to be caught off guard by resurrection wonder.
 - Pray for those in our fellowship who are experiencing an extraordinarily difficult season of life. Life is both beautiful and brutal. Pray that God would remind and reinforce the beauty of it all via the resurrection reality that this isn't the end of the story.
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