

THEOLOGY 101 – FUNDAMENTALS OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

The AFES Doctrinal Basis

The AFES upholds the fundamental truths of the Christian faith, including...

*** The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

6. The doctrine of Christ's bodily resurrection

- A. His resurrection from the dead on the third day was a constant part of the proclamation of Jesus as he prepared the disciples for the coming events of the cross (e.g. Mtt. 16:21, 17:9, 17:23, 20:19 etc.) Despite this recurrent teaching, the disciples were surprised when it actually happened.
- B. The initial encounter with the resurrection were of the empty grave and with angelic messengers about the resurrection (Mtt. 28:1-7, Mk. 16:1-8, Lk. 24:1-12, Jn. 20:1-9.) This underlines the fact of the *bodily* resurrection. Later, Jesus walked with the disciples and broke and ate bread (Lk. 24:36-43), and he had a body which could be handled (Jn. 20:24-28.) The actuality of his bodily resurrection is stressed. This body was now transformed – seen in e.g. its able to appear in locked rooms (Jn. 20:19.) It is a *spiritual* body (1Cor. 15:42-44.)
- C. The *bodiliness* of the resurrection stresses the actuality of the event. We are not speaking of the idea or myth of resurrection nor of “the circle of life,” but of the actual raising – in real history – of a real flesh-and-bones man. We see by the *bodiliness* that the resurrection is a *human* event, not something belonging to the divinity of Jesus. He acts in the resurrection for all those who have bodies – men and women throughout history.
- D. The resurrection is a Trinitarian act – primarily he was raised by the Father (Acts 2:24, 3:15, 4:10, 5:30, Rom. 4:24 + all the passives: *he was raised*), but also we read that he lay down his life and took it up again (Jn 10:17-18), and he was raised by the Spirit of holiness (Rom. 1:4.) Each member of the Trinity was involved in the whole action of salvation in the incarnation, ministry, cross, resurrection and ascension – it is this that makes the salvation a *reconciling* action.
- E. The significance of his resurrection is that Christ was publicly vindicated by the Father. All he'd done in his death on the cross was shown to be effective. He is shown to be the one who now rules all things with the Father. (Rom. 1:4, Acts 2:22-36.) He is raised into cosmic lordship far above every other claim to authority (Php. 2:9-11.) As risen Lord he commissions us to be heralds in the world of his universal lordship (Mtt. 28:16-20 etc.) Without the resurrection of Christ, our sins would not be dealt with, faith be vain, death still reign, and Christian living be a pathetic joke (1Cor. 15:17-19.)
- F. Jesus was raised as a firstfruits of the resurrection to come (1Cor. 15:20.) We will be made alive in Christ and we have by faith a share in resurrection power even now (Rom. 6:1-4.) He is the hope of our future inheritance of the kingdom, and the strength of our living in the kingdom now (Rom. 6:5-10.) The resurrection of Jesus is the basis of our saying no to sin in this world and living obedient and holy lives now (Rom. 6:11-14.) The “*bodiliness*” of the resurrection means that this power of Christ flows into every part of our existence and not simply “spiritual” aspects. His power enables us to offer up the parts of our body to God for righteousness (Rom. 6:13.)