

# "NEW BODY"

**By Mike Burnham**

Phil. 3:21..."change" means a change of condition, a transition but no absolute dissolution of continuity.

"Fashioned"...change outwardly to conform to Christ's body - a body fitted for the uses of the spirit. There appears to be a physical connection maintained between the old body and the new body.

1 Cor. 15:44...here we have the natural or psychical, derived from the Greek word for soul. The word spiritual comes from the Greek word for spirit. Paul does not mean to say that this earthly body is composed of soul, neither does he say that the resurrection body is composed of spirit. These adjectives "natural and spiritual" do not define the material of the respective bodies, but describe those bodies in their relations and adaptations, in their powers and uses. The present body is adapted and designed for the use of the soul; the resurrection body will be adapted and designed for the use of the spirit.

Luke 24:39; John 20:27...the question as I see it is: Does the nature of Christ's resurrection, as literal and physical, determine the nature of the resurrection in the case of believers? In the case of Christ, the same body that was laid in the tomb was raised again, although possessed of new and surprising powers, no longer subject to the limitations and conditions of his natural body. It was no longer flesh and blood, but some kind of flesh and bone the scriptures seem to indicate that there is some physical connection between the believer's natural bodies and their new spiritual bodies (1 Cor. 15:51-54), but what that connection is exactly I don't know.

1 Cor. 15:37,38...Paul shows that the resurrection can be seen in nature. "to every seed his own body" illustrates that as each seed preserves their own personal identity, so the body will preserve its own identity. The seed dies and rots and a new, more glorious, body comes forth, different from the seed but the connection is still there, a wheat seed produces wheat. In like manner this body dies and rots and a new and more glorious body emerges. It may not be made up of the same substance but it will be a body nonetheless, immortal and incorruptible.

The Mississippi river is the same river it was two hundred years ago even though the particles that made it up have long since disappeared. On one hand you cannot step into the same river twice, yet, on the other hand you can.

Verses 42-44...Paul seems to single out four things:

First, the body will be raised incorruptible and immortal. Our resurrected body will never decay, get old, sick, hurt, or die.

Secondly, it will be raised in glory. As the flower is the glory of the bulb, the ugly seed, so this earthly body, low in dignity, and humiliation, what Paul calls a "vile body" (Phil. 3:21), will be raised in honor and beauty.

Thirdly, it is raised in power. Not frail, tired, lazy, limited in what it can do, but strong, full of energy and vitality, capable of extraordinary and exciting things.

Fourthly, it is raised a spiritual body, adapted to the higher and spiritual life. It won't be subject to this world and material things, but outfitted for the spiritual realm and spiritual things.

Verse 45...Paul points out that scripture agrees with what he is saying because the two Adams stamp their characteristics on their

racess. The term "last Adam" was coined by Paul to indicate that there can be no third representative man, sinless and without human father, as were both Christ and Adam.