

Four Different Claims about Life

1. Life is what you make of it Empowered
2. Life is often hard, and then you die Pessimistic
3. Everything works out for a purpose Optimistic
4. There is always hope

“Interesting hypothesis”

Question: What is the evidence for the claim?

What is life like, and how should we live?

1

Truly Alive

1 Corinthians 15:12-34

ref.ly/1Co15;niv




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2

1 Corinthians

- A letter that was written around 54 AD
 - so about 24 years after Jesus' death
- **They all agreed that...**
 - Jesus was executed on a cross
 - Jesus came back to life again
- **They disagreed whether...**
 - people who died would physically live again

So... Is there life after death?
What difference would it make?

3

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Presents the accepted Christian claims

- Jesus was executed on a cross
- Jesus came to life again on the 3rd day
- Eyewitnesses:
 - Peter and Jesus' chosen disciples
 - over 500 people at once
(mostly still alive at this writing)
 - James and the expanded group of apostles
 - Paul (the author)

4

If there is no resurrection, Jesus is dead and gone,
and **Christianity is an awful lie**

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

¹² But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, **our preaching is useless and so is your faith.**

5

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¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

6

If Jesus is alive on the other side of death,
then His people will eventually be too

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

7

The resurrection of people doesn't come
until Jesus' return in final victory

1 Corinthians 15:23-28

²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

8

The resurrection of people doesn't come until Jesus' return in final victory

²⁷ For 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. ²⁸ When 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.

9

If there is no resurrection:
Actions prompted by hope in the resurrection would actually be empty and give no hope

1 Corinthians 15:29

²⁹ Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them?

10

If there is no resurrection:
Self-sacrifice has no more foundation
than selfish abandon

1 Corinthians 15:30-32

³⁰ And as for us, why do we **endanger ourselves every hour**? ³¹ I **face death every day**—yes, just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³² If I **fought wild beasts** in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised,
“Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

11

Living for this life alone
conflicts with knowing God

1 Corinthians 15:33-34

³³ Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” ³⁴ Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are **ignorant of God**—I say this to your shame.

12

Big Idea

of Jesus and believers

Without the resurrection

Christianity is an awful lie
It is hard to argue against skillful selfishness

With the resurrection

Christianity is a wonderful and certain promise
that prompts abundant living
like nothing else

13

What happens if I bury...



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14

If death is the end...

- there is little reason not to be skillfully selfish
- just do our best, and then we're gone

If resurrection to live with Jesus is true...

- **there is always hope** → even death itself is a transition to something far better!
- **all wrongs can be turned to good**
- we have **reason and resources** to love and forgive and serve supremely
- we can **live abundantly today** (like Jesus) while anticipating **an amazing future** (with Jesus)

15

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16

So what?

What are you doing about Jesus?

- The claim of His resurrection...
 - has solid historical foundation
- It provides reason and resources for fantastic hope and beautiful living
- Ask. Seek. Knock.

17

So what?

What are you doing about Jesus?

Are you living according to your claim?

- Stated beliefs vs. Lived beliefs
- The tragedy of a “practical terminalist”
[living as if death is the end]
- **Live like Jesus!**
 - live boldly and generously today
 - always abounding in the work of the Lord
 - while anticipating an amazing future with God

18

For as in Adam all die
Living as though death is the end
Perhaps: skillful selfishness
so in Christ all will be made alive.

**Living the abundant life of Jesus
now and forever!**

1 Corinthians 15:20