

# Truly Alive

1 Corinthians 15:12-34



## 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 → Optimistic  
“Interesting hypothesis”

**Question:** What is the evidence for the claim?

**What is life like, and how should we live?**

## 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?

## 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

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)

12-19: If there is no resurrection, Jesus is dead and gone, and **Christianity is an awful lie**

20-22: If Jesus is alive on the other side of death, then His people will eventually be too

23-28: The resurrection of people doesn't come until Jesus' return in final victory

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

30-32: If there is no resurrection: Self-sacrifice has no more foundation than selfish abandon

33-34: Living for this life alone conflicts with knowing God

## The Big Idea

Without the resurrection (of Jesus and believers)

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

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)



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## 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.

### 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

## 1 Corinthians 15:20

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!

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## Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What are you doing about Jesus and the claim of the resurrection? What would it look like to ask, seek, and knock to know for sure whether it is true or an awful lie?
2. What are ways that we might be tempted to live as “practical terminalists” (living as if death were the end)?
3. In what ways does the hope of the resurrection provide the reason and the power to live like Jesus?

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## Conversation Starters

What are you doing about Jesus and the strong evidence of His resurrection from the dead?