

**The Nature of the Resurrected Body
(8th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C)**

1 Corinthians 15:54-58—The Victory over Death

⁵⁴ *When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:*

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “O death, where is thy victory?

O death, where is thy sting?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us *the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Cor 15:45-49)

1. Two Kinds of Bodies: “perishable” body vs. “imperishable” body (cf. 1 Cor 15:35)

Old Body

terrestrial (Greek *choikon*)

perishable

dishonor

weakness

soulish body

(Greek *sōma psychikon*)

of the dust

mortal

first Adam: of dust

Risen Body

heavenly (Greek *epouranion*)

imperishable

glory

powerful

spiritual body

(Greek *sōma pneumatikon*)

of heaven

immortal

last Adam: of heaven

2. “Spiritual” Body:

a. *Not immaterial*, but “animated by the spirit” (Greek *pneuma*)

b. Just as Adam’s body is “soulish” (Greek *psychikos*), animated by the “soul” (Greek *psychē*) (1 Cor 15:44; cf. Gen 2:7 LXX).

3. “Perishable” vs. “Imperishable”: *perishable* flesh and blood of this world cannot inherit the “imperishable” body of the resurrection (1 Cor 15:50).

The Living Tradition

Thomas Aquinas: “*What we must not think, as some heretics say, is that flesh and blood will not rise according to substance, but rather that the whole body will be changed into spirit or air. This is heretical and false. For the Apostle says that our body will be conformed to his body of radiance.* Therefore, since Christ after his resurrection, has body and blood, as it says in Luke: “See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have” (Luke 24:39), it is certain that we too will have flesh and blood in the resurrection.” (Thomas Aquinas,

Commentary on 1 Corinthians no. 1000; trans. F. Larcher, O.P.)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (8th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C)

1. What will our bodies be like in the final resurrection? What does Paul mean when he talks about a “perishable” body vs. an “imperishable” body?

For Further Reading

1. St. Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on the Letters of Saint Paul to the Corinthians* (trans. F. R. Larcher, O.P.; eds. J. Mortensen and E. Alarcón; Lander, WY: Aquinas Institute, 2012).
2. Gerald Bray, ed. *1-2 Corinthians* (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament VI; Downers Grove, IL.: IVP, 1999).
3. George T. Montague, SM, *First Corinthians* (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture; Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010).