

God's Sovereign Saving Grace

*Total Inability - Unconditional Election - Definite Atonement - Invincible Grace
Conversion - Justification - Adoption - Sanctification - Perseverance - **Glorification***

Glorification is the Goal of God's Salvation

- Romans 8:23-25 "...we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."
- Romans 8:30 "And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified."

The Doctrine of Glorification:

"Glorification is the final step in the application of redemption. It will happen when Christ returns and raises from the dead the bodies of all believers for all time who have died and reunites them with their souls and changes the bodies of all believers who remain alive, thereby giving all believers at the same time perfect resurrection bodies like His own." Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 828.

The Resurrection of our Bodies is One Part of Our Glorification

- 1 Corinthians 15:12-14 "Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain."
- 1 Corinthians 15:50-55 "I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 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. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

When Does the Glorification of Our Bodies Take Place?

The Bible is clear that the moment we physically die, our souls are immediately transferred into God's presence. There is no such thing as "soul sleep."

- Luke 23:43 Jesus said to the thief on the cross: "...Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." ("Paradise" is another word for "heaven.")
- 2 Corinthians 5:8 "Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord."
- Philippians 1:21-23 "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better."

Our bodies, however, will not be glorified until Jesus returns.

- Philippians 3:20-21 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."

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- 1 Corinthians 15:20-24 "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power."

If we are still living on the earth when Jesus returns, we will be glorified without experiencing death.

- See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

What Will the Glorified Bodies of Christians Be Like?

It is easy to speculate regarding our future bodily form, but the Biblical data speaks in general terms - not specifics. We need to be careful to embrace these general truths wholeheartedly, but stop there.

Our bodies will be like Jesus' resurrected body (in every way except we will not bear the scars of our earthly life).

- 1 John 3:2-3 "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure."

Other Parts to Our Glorification

Our sanctification will be complete

- Romans 8: 29 "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son."

Our sojourning will be complete

- Job 19:25-27 "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!"

Our entanglement with a cursed creation will be completely over

- Romans 8:19-22 "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now."

Every Single Human Will be Resurrected... Not All to Glory Though

- John 5:28-29 "Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment."

Note: Just as Christians will be given a body that is perfect for the new heavens and the new earth, so unbelievers will be given a body that is perfect for the torments of hell. All men are eternal - therefore, repent and believe on Jesus and be saved from your sins!