

QUESTION: In the resurrection, what happens to people who gave body parts for science or donated organs? Are they just supernaturally made whole, or are we not supposed to give our body parts or donate organs? I figure it mustn't matter, because we all turn to dust anyway, but I'm not sure.

ANSWER: Read I Corinthians 15:35-57. In verses 35-38 particularly, it says that only a "seed" is planted in order for something to grow out of it. In the natural world this is true, and with our resurrection bodies it is true. God can resurrect a person who has had their body exploded with a bomb, or been eaten by lions or sharks, or been burned in a fire, or as you said, if they just turn to dust because they died hundreds or thousands of years ago. We've all seen TV shows where they find the criminal with DNA from a few scrapings of skin cells, or a piece of skin tissue, or a spot of blood. Don't you think God, who created us and our DNA in the first place, can re-create us from the smallest atom that is left (if He even needs that much)? This is just logical, but let's look at an incident in God's word that illustrates this, and shows that we do not need to bury a body intact, with all its pieces and parts, in order for God to be able to resurrect it.

- **Mark 6:25-29** "Immediately she came in with haste to the king and asked, saying, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.' And the king was exceedingly sorry; yet, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his (John the Baptist's) head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard of it, they came and took away his corpse and laid it in a tomb."

The girl (commonly known as Salome) gave the head of John the Baptist to her mother, Herodias, because Herodias hated John the Baptist (see Mark 6:17-24). John's disciples came and buried the body, but they never were able to get his head to bury with the body. Herodias hated John so much, because of being under conviction of her sin by his preaching, that she never would have said, "Oh! Here is John's head; be sure to bury it with the rest of him." No, she probably kept his head to gloat over until it started to rot and smell, and then probably threw it out on a trash heap or burned it. His disciples only buried a portion of his body, and it was missing much more than just an arm, or a kidney, or something - it was missing his head! Certainly, John the Baptist, whom Jesus called the greatest of all prophets born of woman (Matthew 11:11), would not be deprived of the blessing of having a perfect resurrection body for all eternity because of the wickedness of Queen Herodias and King Herod.

- **Genesis 3:19** "In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till **you return to the ground**, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and **to DUST you shall return.**"
- **Job 34:15** "All flesh would perish together, and **man would return to DUST.**"
- **I Corinthians 15:35-38** "But someone will say, 'How are the dead raised up? And with what BODY do they come?' Foolish one, what you sow (plant) is not made alive unless it dies. And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain - perhaps wheat or some other grain. But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds."
- **I Corinthians 15:42-55** "So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown (buried) in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual (supernatural) body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual

body. And so it is written, 'The first man Adam became a living being.' The Last Adam (Jesus) became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of DUST (chemicals of the earth); the Second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust: and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of the dust, **we shall also bear the IMAGE of the heavenly Man**. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep (in death), 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 incorruptible**, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'

These Scriptures give us the process of death and resurrection. First, our bodies return to the dust of the earth, having been originally made from chemicals in the earth ("dust"). This can happen over hundreds of years in the grave, or be speeded up by cremation, being blown up or burned in a fire, eaten by animals, etc. The process is the same. All God needs is a "seed" - He does not need the whole original, earthly body, just as you don't plant an entire oak tree in order to get another oak tree, you just plant the seed, which in that case is an acorn. You don't plant a whole apple tree to get another apple tree, you just plant one of those little seeds you find at the core of an apple.

Are there any other Scriptures that give us clues as to what our resurrection bodies will be like? Yes, the word of God says we will be LIKE JESUS. Our bodies will be perfect, without defects, disease, or pain, and no longer subject to death. We will have bodies like Jesus, and Jesus' body was supernatural, in that He could pass through walls and locked doors, and He ascended up into heaven without any help of any kind, or needing to wear a "spacesuit" (John 20:19-29, Acts 1:9-11). And yet, Jesus' body was solid, still made of "flesh and bones" as He said, and He even told Thomas to touch Him and put his hands in His wounds. Those wounds were only left in His body as IDENTIFICATION and PROOF of who He was - we will not have wounds or scars in heaven. He was not some sort of ghost or spirit, so He ate some fish and honey in the disciples' presence just to prove to them that He was not a ghost or spirit (Luke 24:36-43). Our bodies will be different from what they are now, especially if we were born with defects, or suffered disfigurement, or just the aging process. We are told that we will have perfect knowledge in heaven (I Corinthians 13:12), and I believe this means we will be able to recognize our loved ones, even if we only knew them in their old age or disfigured bodies. We will also recognize babies and children that died before they grew to maturity, even those who were aborted, miscarried, or given up for adoption, and we never knew them on earth. We will KNOW with the same kind of knowledge that God has.

- **I John 3:2** "Beloved, now we are children of God; and **it has not yet been revealed what we shall be**, but we know that when He is revealed, **WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM**, for we shall see Him as He is."
- **Rev. 21:4** "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."
- **Romans 8:29** "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be **conformed to (made the same as) the IMAGE of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."
- **II Corinthians 3:18** "For we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being TRANSFORMED into the SAME IMAGE** from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."
- **I Corinthians 13:12** "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I KNOW in PART, but THEN **I shall KNOW** just as I also AM KNOWN [by God]."