

=THE BODY OF CHRIST=  
Lesson 12  
The Resurrection Body of Christ

INTRODUCTION: For several weeks we have been studying the body of Christ. No series of lessons on the body of Christ would be complete without a lesson on the body of Christ after His resurrection. This lesson will cover the qualities of the resurrected body of Christ.

- I. HIS BODY COULD NOT BE TOUCHED FOR A WHILE, John 20:17, 27. Jesus said to Mary Magdalene when she saw Him after He was raised from the dead, “Touch me not.” Yet to Thomas He said, “Reach hither.” There was an important reason for this. In both the tabernacle and the temple, the high priest would take the blood of the sacrifice and sprinkle it on the Mercy Seat inside the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement. From the time he took the blood at the brazen altar until the time he sprinkled the blood on the Mercy Seat, he could not be touched by the hands of men. After the blood had been sprinkled on the Mercy Seat, he then could be touched. Jesus was the High Priest. He had been the Lamb and had paid the price for our sins. Now, as the resurrected Saviour, He must take His blood, ascend to the Father, and sprinkle the blood on the Mercy Seat in Heaven. This He had not yet done when Mary Magdalene saw Him. This He had done when Thomas saw Him. Consequently, He could not be touched by the hands of men when Mary Magdalene saw Him because He was still the High Priest taking His blood to the Mercy Seat in Heaven. When Thomas saw Him days later, He could be touched because He had ascended to the Father, sprinkled the blood on the Mercy Seat, and finished the fulfillment of the tabernacle type.
- II. HIS BODY HAD SCARS, John 20:25, 27. This is an unusual thing. The resurrection body of Christ had scars. When we think of the new body that God is going to give us, we think of a body that is perfect—without scars and without blemish. This is true. All the scars that we have will be removed. In fact, there will be only one Person in Heaven with scars, and that Person is the Lord Jesus Christ. It seems that God wanted His Son to have scars eternally. This would be so He can show them to us and remind us constantly of the price He paid for our salvation and of the reason we got to Heaven in the first place.
- III. HIS BODY COULD WALK THROUGH WALLS, John 20:19; Luke 24:31. The resurrected body of Christ had no need to open the door. He could just appear somewhere at will.
- IV. HIS BODY WAS NOT KNOWN READILY, John 20:4; 21:4; Luke 24:16. When He appeared to the disciples when they were fishing, they did not know who He was at first. When He walked on the road to Emmaus with the two men, He was not recognized until He opened their eyes. Mary Magdalene supposed Him to be the gardener. Something about the resurrected body of Christ made it somewhat difficult for His followers to recognize Him. Again, however, He was recognizable. In other words, the resurrection body could be recognized but not readily by the eye. Perhaps in the resurrection body our true characteristics will make us recognizable. The Emmaus disciples said, “Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?” Luke 24:32.
- V. HIS BODY HAD FLESH AND BONE, Luke 24:39. This is very interesting. The body with which we will live and in which we will live forever will have flesh and bone. Bear in mind, our body shall be like His. The Psalmist said, “I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness,” Psalm 17:15b. John said, “...we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is,” I John 3:2b. Why didn’t His body have blood? Well, for one reason, the Bible says that “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.” See I Corinthians 15:50. “For the life of the flesh is in the blood,” Leviticus 17:11a. When God breathed into man the breath of life, He put blood in his body, for blood is the life of man. When man sinned, sin came into his blood. It is the blood that gives life, and it is bad blood that causes death. Hence, the resurrected body of Christ had bone and flesh, but it had not blood. This will be true concerning resurrection bodies. It is interesting to note how real our bodies will be and how real His body was. The resurrection body has flesh. Thank God for the reality of eternity. Heaven has real streets of gold and real gates of pearl; it is a real place. It has horses, chariots, trees, rivers, houses, etc. Our bodies will be as real as they are now.

- VI. JESUS ATE IN HIS RESURRECTED BODY, Luke 24:41-43. Again, this simply shows us the reality of Heaven. Jesus proved to them by eating that He was not a spirit. This was after His resurrection, showing us that we, too, will eat in our new bodies.
- VII. HIS BODY DEFIED GRAVITY, Luke 24:50, 51. His body defied the normal laws of gravity. Just as He was not limited or held out of a place because of walls or closed doors, even so, His body ascended; gravity did not hold Him. This, I think, will be one of the finest things about the new body. It will travel at will.
- VIII. JESUS WAS, IN HIS RESURRECTED BODY, INTERESTED IN DETAILS, John 20:5-7. To me, this is a very interesting thing. When our Lord arose, He took time to fold His clothes and place them in order. The Lord was interested in details now that He had resurrected from the grave. He has always been concerned with little things. When He was dying on the cross, He took time to say to His mother, “Mother, John will take care of you; and John, you take care of Mother.” Now, in the resurrected body, when He got up from the grave, He was still concerned about every detail. The living Christ is still concerned about you and every detail of your life.
- IX. IN THE RESURRECTION BODY, JESUS SITS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER. He now is our High Priest sitting at the Father’s right hand pleading our case as our intercessor, as our attorney. When Stephen died, he said he saw Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father. Some theologians have difficulty reconciling the fact that Stephen saw Him standing at the right hand of the Father when the Bible says that Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Father when He finished His work. This isn’t irreconcilable to the Christian who knows the love of Christ. Jesus did sit down at the right hand of the Father. When Stephen was dying and saw Jesus standing, he was being welcomed Home! “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints,” Psalm 116:15. Jesus is now at the right hand of the Father as our intercessor, our lawyer, our advocate, our go-between.