

AN EASTER REFLECTION

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

²⁰ But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

²¹ For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.

²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

²⁴ then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

²⁶ The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

²⁷ For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.

²⁸ When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

(1 Corinthians 15:20-28)

CHRIST THE FIRST FRUITS

The Centrality of the Resurrection from
Creation to New Creation

From Creation to New Creation

A. Creation

- Human beings were uniquely made in God's image to represent Him by exercising dominion
- Human beings were created with a "natural body" – inherent to humanness (v44-46)
- Adam was the representative head of all humanity

From Creation to New Creation

B. The Fall

- As a result of Adam's rebellion against God, all of humanity is separated from God – spiritual and physical death

From Creation to New Creation

C. The Incarnation

- God the Son became fully human in order to represent a new humanity ("last Adam")
- In His obedient life and sacrificial death, Christ secured salvation (life) for all those in Him

From Creation to New Creation

D. Resurrection/New Creation

- The resurrected Jesus is the "first fruits" of the new creation and the guarantee of our resurrection
- Presently the man Christ Jesus reigns over all things as the exalted, glorified Son
- The transformation of believers into the image of the Son will occur at Christ's coming – until then we are subject to death ("sleep")

Do you belong to Christ by faith alone?