

Systematic Theology II

Death &
Glorification

Part 1: Death

Why is there death?

- Death is the punishment for sin. Even the ultimate, unending punishment of sin is described as the “second death” (Rev 20:15).
- Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- But death has layers of meaning in the Bible...

What is death?

- Mostly dead, partly dead, or all dead?
- Genesis 2:17 - “but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”
- But Adam and Eve don't seem to die on that day. Turns out they're only mostly dead.



The Bible speaks of death in several ways...

1. **Spiritual Death.** “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked...” (Eph 2:1-2a). Spiritual dis-integration.
2. **Physical Death.** “By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). Physical dis-integration.
3. **Eternal Death.** “Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire” (Rev 20:14). Full dis-integration.

So...

As non-Christians, we were mostly dead (i.e., spiritually dead and physically dying) heading towards full dead (i.e., eternal death).

But cheer up: As Christians, we are now only *partly* dead (i.e., physically dying but spiritually alive) and headed towards full life!

- 1 Cor 15:22 - For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
- Col 2:13 - And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

How should we view death for Christians?

Conflicted... with sorrow and hope (1 Thess 4:13)

Sorrow

- Unnatural.
- Painful.
- Enemy.
- Loss.
- Sad.

Hope

- Part of the plan.
- Mercy.
- Witness.
- Homecoming.
- Welcome.

What happens when Christians die?

- Instant, conscious, personal presence with God in heaven.
 - No purgatory.
 - No soul sleep.
 - No second chances.
- Note: This is an intermediate state (because we do not yet have our resurrected bodies and because the new earth is forthcoming).

Part 2: Glorification

Glorification Definition

Grudem: “Glorification is the final step in the application of redemption. It will happen when Christ returns, raises from the dead the bodies of all believers for all time who have died, 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.” (p. 1018)

New Testament on Glorification

- 1 Cor. 15:12ff.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18
- John 5:28–29
- John 6:37–40
- Romans 8:11
- 2 Corinthians 5:1–9
- Philippians 3:20–21

Old Testament on Glorification

- John 11:23-24
- Job 19:25-27
- Isaiah 26:19
- Daniel 12:2

What will we be like?

Clearly...

- New physical bodies.
- Still us.
- Sinless. (Spiritual)
- Immortal.
- Strong/Vibrant.
- Glorious.

Less clearly...

- No “scars”?
- Exact “age”?
- Glowing?
- Tripping? (“imperfections”)

Glorification: So what?