

**“BELIEFS, CONVICTIONS AND
CONSEQUENCES”**
1 Corinthians 15:29-34

INTRODUCTION

This long chapter is the result of some in the church saying that they didn't believe that Jesus rose from the dead. Some may think that eternity is so far away that it is not necessary to consider that yet. For them, it may not seem to matter in this life what you believe. Other things seem to be more pressing such as homework, tests, marriage and college, for instance. Many unwittingly live divided lives between secular (school, work and home) and religious (church on Sunday). Some feel that discussing science is about facts, but religion and morality are based on feelings, emotions and whatever a person thinks. God's Word and the values contained in it seem imposing to some as if it is only a private matter. In these 6 verses of 1 Corinthians, the Holy Spirit gives us down to earth consequences for the here and now.

BAPTIZING THE DEAD

We are not totally certain of what Paul means concerning the baptizing of the dead, **v. 29**. There are about 30 different views about this. It is possibly baptism by proxy; however, Paul is not endorsing that. (Mormons do this, but Mormonism is not scriptural Christianity. They do not have faith in the deity of Jesus or in His atonement on the cross. They claim to be the only true church in their baptism of dead ancestors). Another view is that Paul is referring to those that died, persecuted for Christ, **cf. Luke 12:50**.

OUR SACRIFICE

Why do we sacrifice our lives if there is no reward later?, **v. 30-32**. We should just live for the present, for ourselves. “Let us eat drink and be merry...” This belief is greatly influencing Christians! However, Jesus asked us to *deny* ourselves and lose our lives, **Matthew 5:11, 12**.

ACCOUNTABILITY

If there is no resurrection, then there is no accountability for how we live right now. **v.34**. However, in **Romans 14:12** it states, “**So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.**” Often people say that they know God, but don't acknowledge it in their actions or lifestyle.

CONSIDER

False teaching is never neutral or harmless. Don't be deceived. It impacts us 100% of the time. Friends and peers can be some of the most influential people in sharing the false teaching. Be transformed by renewing the whole mind! In our discussion of ethics, unfortunately the Christian worldview is missing. What about sacrificial life? Agape love?

While some claim to be Christian, how does this affect our view of pot, homosexuality, alcohol, transgender, etc.? We need to accept the complete truth. It's God's truth that explains our existence. We must *continue* in His Word to truly be His disciple. “**And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free**”, **John 8:32**. We need a complete surrender to Jesus and *the* Truth. He *is* Truth!

Scripture references from the NKJV.

PRAY

- * That those in our local churches would embrace and desire all of God's Word!
- * That our Resurrection service would draw even the most distant of souls to see Jesus as the risen Lord!
- * That many who have walked away from God would return to their first love!