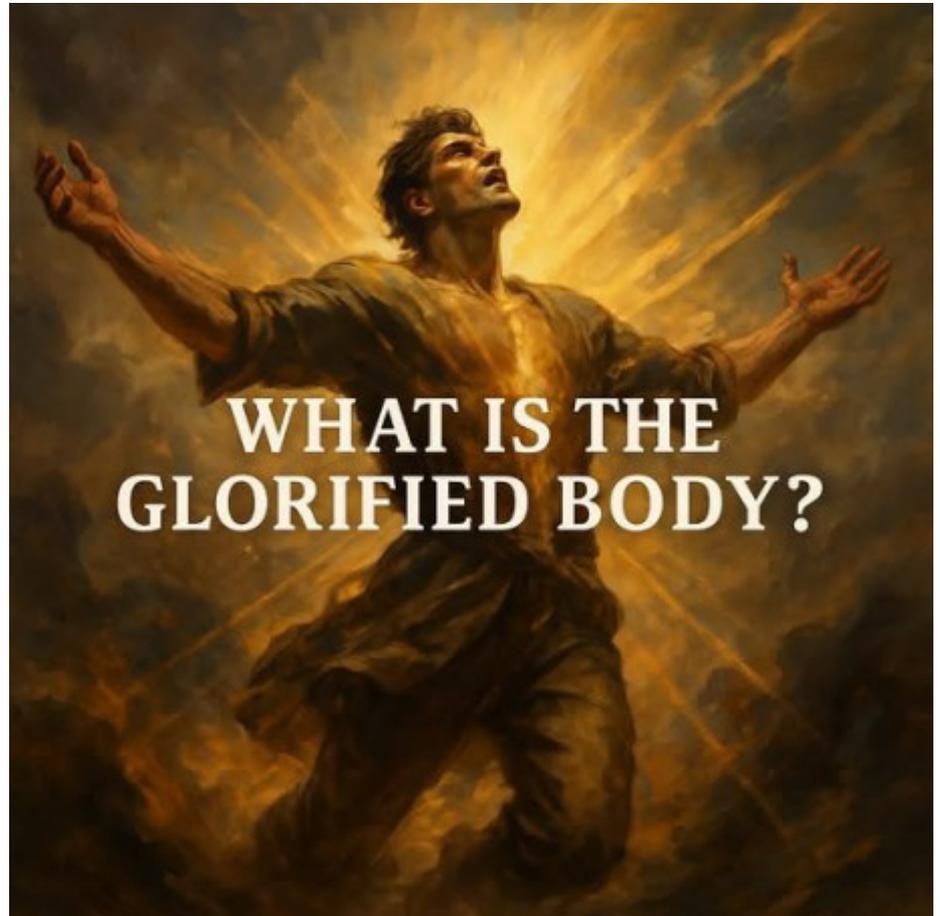


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By Dan Maines

What Is the Glorified Body?

Introduction: Clearing Up the Confusion

When people talk about a "glorified body," they often imagine a future, perfect, physical body that somehow replaces our current one. It's usually described as immortal flesh, flawless in appearance, pain-free, and indestructible. But where does that idea come from? Most of the time, it's not Scripture, it's tradition. It's the product of centuries of theological layering, not

the plain teaching of the apostles.

As a preterist, I believe the Bible speaks of the glorified body in spiritual, covenantal terms. The glorification spoken of in Scripture is not about a flesh-and-blood upgrade, but about transformation in Christ, through His Spirit, into a new creation.

A Spiritual Body, Not a Physical One

Paul makes this abundantly clear in **1 Corinthians 15:44**:

"It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body."

Notice, he does not say it is raised a perfected natural body or a reconstructed physical body. He says it is raised spiritual. This is not about swapping out one set of physical limbs for a newer, shinier model. It is about a completely different order of life, Spirit instead of flesh, heavenly instead of earthly.

And then Paul clarifies the order of this transformation in **verse 46**:

"However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, then the spiritual."

The natural came first, that is Adam, the old covenant, and life under the law. The spiritual came later, through Christ, the last Adam, and the new covenant. The glorified body is not a body awaiting us at some far-off day. It is the reality of being in Christ, part of His new creation, right now.

Glorification Is About Covenant, Not Flesh

When Paul speaks of resurrection and glory, he is speaking of covenantal transformation. The old covenant body, symbolized by Israel and the Law, was perishable, dishonorable, and weak.

But in Christ, a new covenant body was raised, imperishable, glorious, and powerful. Not because our DNA changed, but because we were joined to the risen Christ.

So what is the glorified body?

It is spiritual, not fleshly (1 Corinthians 15:44)

It is corporate, a covenant people raised in Christ (Ephesians 2:6)

It is clothed with Christ, not flesh waiting to be upgraded (Galatians 3:27)

This is what Paul longed for, not some escape from the body, but to be fully immersed in the life of Christ.

Clothed, Not Naked – 2 Corinthians 5

In **2 Corinthians 5:1-4**, Paul explains it even further:

"For we know that if our earthly tent, which is our house, is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made by hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed, in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, since in fact after putting it on, we will not be found naked. For indeed, we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life."

Paul is not talking about escaping his human body. He is talking about being clothed with the fullness of Christ's resurrection life. He groaned for this reality, not in the distant future, but in his day. He wanted mortality swallowed up in life. And that is exactly what Jesus brought through His finished work.

What Happens at Physical Death?

Now, you might ask, "So am I going to get a new spiritual body at physical death?" From a fulfilled view, the answer is no. You are not waiting for a new spiritual body, you already have it in Christ.

The glorified body is not something handed out later, it is something you enter into the moment you are united with Jesus. Paul says in **1 Corinthians 15:44** that it is raised a spiritual body, not replaced with one later. That resurrection already happened when Christ came and completed redemption for His people.

2 Corinthians 5:8 says:

"We are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord."

When the mortal, natural body dies, you are not waiting in limbo or for another transformation, you step fully into the life that was already begun in you by the Spirit.

Philippians 3:21 speaks of Christ transforming the body of our lowliness into conformity with His glorious body but again, this was fulfilled in the first-century resurrection. That glorified body is a shared identity in Christ, not a new individual skin suit.

What About Job's Hope?

Yes, Job expressed a hope for something better:

"Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I will see God" (Job 19:26).

Job spoke from a place of longing, not of new covenant fulfillment. He was looking forward in hope to a vindication, a

resurrection, a restoration. That hope was realized in Christ, not by giving us brand-new flesh, but by making us part of a better covenant, raising us spiritually in Him.

Now, some wonder if our glorified state should be like Adam and Eve before the fall—walking with God in a physical, perfect body. But Adam and Eve were natural. Paul says the natural came first, then the spiritual. The glorified body is not a return to Eden, but something better, a participation in the heavenly, spiritual life of Christ. Adam was made of dust. Christ, the last Adam, is from heaven (1 Corinthians 15:47). In Him, we have something greater than what Adam ever had.

What is better? Adam had life that could be lost, he was in a probationary state. We have eternal life that cannot be taken away (John 10:28). Adam walked with God in a garden. We are seated with Christ in the heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6). Adam had access to the tree of life. In Christ, we become partakers of divine life itself (2 Peter 1:4). Adam was of the earth. We are born from above. Adam was a living soul. Christ, and those in Him, are life-giving spirits (1 Corinthians 15:45). That is not just restoration, it is glorification.

And will we be able to walk and talk with others? Yes but not in a physical, earthly body like Adam. In the heavenly realm, communication and fellowship are not bound by flesh. The Scriptures tell us we are gathered to the assembly of the firstborn (Hebrews 12:22-23), a communion of saints in the presence of God. We will be fully known, just as we are fully known (1 Corinthians 13:12). Fellowship continues in glory, more perfect and unhindered than ever before. Our union is not through natural bodies, but through the Spirit, in Christ, forever.

And will we continue to have free will? Yes but perfected. In this glorified, spiritual state, our will is no longer corrupted by sin, fear, or flesh. We will not be robots. We will still love, choose, and respond but always in harmony with God's nature. Psalm

110:3 says, "Your people will volunteer freely on the day of Your power." Our freedom is not taken away, it is fulfilled.

And will we continue to have all of our senses? In the glorified, spiritual realm, our senses are not limited by biology. Scripture describes spiritual perception that surpasses what the physical body could grasp. Paul speaks of being "caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words" (2 Corinthians 12:4), showing there is hearing, awareness, and communication beyond flesh. We will not lose identity or consciousness, we will gain clarity. Rather than five limited senses, we will have full awareness in the presence of God. We will see clearly, hear perfectly, and know truly, no longer through a glass dimly, but face to face (1 Corinthians 13:12).

There will be joy, connection, and completeness far beyond what flesh could provide. We will serve, worship, and fellowship freely, without the bondage of sin and death. True free will is finally realized when there is nothing left pulling us away from God.

And what about our earthly relationships, will we still love and know our spouses? Yes, you will still love your wife/husband in Heaven, even more deeply, purely, and completely than ever before. Jesus said in Matthew 22:30 that in the resurrection, we neither marry nor are given in marriage. That means marriage, as a covenant for this life, ends at death. But love does not end. The bond you formed in Christ, the spiritual connection you built, the selfless love you shared, those remain. Not in a legal, earthly form, but in the eternal communion of saints, in the presence of God where love is perfected.

You will know her/him. You will remember her/him. You will recognize her/him, not by the flesh, but in the Spirit. And you will love her/him more perfectly than ever before, because it will be love untainted by sin, fear, pain, or separation.

In Heaven, we are all part of the bride of Christ. That does not diminish the relationships we formed here, it fulfills them. You will walk together in joy, in worship, and in unity forever. The intimacy of earthly marriage was just a shadow of the greater, eternal fellowship we enter together in Him.

Already, Not Yet-to-Come

So what do you have now?

You have put on Christ (Galatians 3:27)

You are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)

You are seated with Him in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6)

You are part of the spiritual body (1 Corinthians 12:27)

At death, you do not get something else, you step fully into what has already been given. No waiting. No second upgrade. Just the fullness of His presence.

Answering the Common Objection

So when someone says, "I don't have my glorified body yet," I'd gently remind them:

If you are in Christ, you do have it.

You have been raised with Him (Colossians 3:1)

You have been seated in the heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6)

You have put on Christ (Galatians 3:27)

The glorified body is not something waiting to fall out of the sky. It is the corporate, covenantal reality of being in Christ.

And when your time on this earth is done, you will not be floating in limbo or waiting for some far-off resurrection. You will step into the fullness of what you have already begun to taste, the presence of your King, forever.

Conclusion: Living in the Reality of Glory

Let us not miss the beauty of what we already have in Christ because we are still waiting for something He already delivered.

The glorified body is not about new flesh

It is about new life in Christ

It is not a hope postponed, it is a reality fulfilled

We are the body of Christ now. We are His temple. We are His new creation. And when this mortal frame fades away, we will simply pass into the presence of the One who already made us whole.

That is the glory. That is the glorified body. And that is the hope that never fades.

Amen.

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