

# The Resurrection Body of Christ

## ***Introduction:***

When considering the resurrection body of Christ, two questions must be asked: 1) How was the resurrection body the same as the body that Christ had before the resurrection? 2) How was the resurrection body different than the body that Christ had before the resurrection?

### • ***How was the Resurrection Body of Christ Similar to His Pre-Resurrection Body?***

At least seven features identify the resurrection body of Christ as the same body which was laid in the tomb.

1. The nail prints in His hands and feet and the wound in His side were retained in the resurrection body of Christ (John 20:25–29). The resurrection body was not a new body, but the old body transformed.
2. When Christ appeared after the resurrection, the people who saw Him were certain who He was. Mary Magdalene, who did not immediately recognize Christ, apparently identified Him by His voice (John 20:16), (she evidently had her back turned when He spoke). All others recognized Him immediately except for the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35), who evidently were supernaturally blinded (Luke 24:16, 31). The apostles were so certain of their identification of the risen Lord they were willing to die for this truth.
3. When Christ appeared to His disciples in the upper room, He deliberately ate food to prove to them that He was not just a spirit and had actually risen from the grave (Luke 24:41–43).
4. The resurrection body of Christ had a material nature which could be felt. According to Matthew 28:9, the women held Him by the feet when they worshiped Him. In the appearance of Luke 24:39, He invites them to handle Him. SA 1 John 1:1-5.
5. According to John 20:22, the resurrection body of Christ was able to breathe, and to this extent corresponded to a natural body.
6. Christ specifically states that His resurrection body had flesh and bone (Luke 24:39–40), which refuted the idea of the disciples that they were seeing a spirit when Christ appeared to them.

### • ***How was the Resurrection Body of Christ Different than His Pre-Resurrection Body?***

After His resurrection Christ manifested previously unseen qualities.

1. The ordinary limitations of transportation and distance did not restrict Christ after His resurrection. Though before His death He would become weary from long journeys, there is no evidence that His various appearances to His disciples required such ordinary means of transportation. He was delivered from many of the limitations of time and space, which seemed normal to the nature of that body.
2. The resurrection body of Christ had flesh and bones, but was not restricted by physical barriers. This is evident in the fact that He could enter closed rooms without difficulty (Luke 24:36; John 20:19).
3. Christ was able to appear and disappear at will after His resurrection (Luke 24:17; John 20:19).
4. The resurrection body of Christ required neither rest or food to sustain it. Though Christ could eat, the resurrection body did not require it.

## ***Conclusion:***

Christ's resurrection body was the same body as the body prepared by God for the incarnation. However, after the resurrection that body displayed certain intrinsic characteristics that were not displayed before. While, through supernatural intervention, the pre-resurrection body could and did overcome physical limitations, after the resurrection no supernatural intervention was necessary, as the resurrection body had inherent qualities not found in the pre-resurrection body.