

# Death: A Defeated Enemy

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

*<sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:*

*“Death is swallowed up in victory.”*

*<sup>55</sup> “O death, where is your victory?*

*O death, where is your sting?”*

*<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*- 1 Corinthians 15:54-57*

I. Death is our enemy, but it is a defeated enemy.

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A. Death is our enemy.

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*And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)*

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A. Death is our enemy.

*For the wages of sin is death. . . (Rom.6:23)*

I. Death is our enemy, but it is a defeated enemy.

A. Death is our enemy.

B. Death is a defeated enemy.

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*Death is swallowed up in victory. (v.54)*

## B. Death is a defeated enemy.

*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. (Rev.21:4)*

II. Death is an enemy that we should no longer fear  
(vv.55-57).

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“O death, where is your victory?  
O death, where is your sting?” (v.55)

“Death is an enemy, and it can be a fierce one. Death is not normal when you look at it from the vantage point of what God created in the first place. It is normal this side of the fall, but that is not saying much. It is an enemy. It is ugly. It destroys relationships. . . . There is something odious about death. Never ever pretend otherwise.

But death does not have the last word. . . . Thank God for a Savior who could claim, “I am the resurrection and the life.”

Thus when we come to grips with these things,  
there needs to be both outrage and pain on the one  
hand and trust and quiet confidence on the other.

The appropriate mingling of these things together is part of a genuinely Christian response to the ugliness, shock, terror, and loss of death. We begin to understand, and we sorrow, but not as those who have no hope.

- D.A. Carson

*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ. (v.57)*