

A New Body!

Have you ever wished you had a different body? The process of aging certainly makes many folks both want and sometimes truly need a new body – at least a new part of some kind.

However, a great many folks indeed want a new body even if they don't need one. And today, the plastic surgeons – excuse me, the *cosmetic* surgeons – assure you can have one, and they can make you look any way you want to look. Just read the advertisements. Look at Michael Jackson...

Demographically speaking, the people who think that a new body would make their life better span a very wide range of the population. As a therapist, I encountered clients such as:

1. Several folks who needed to stop binge eating, but opted for radical abdominal surgery.
2. A woman whose face and body had been horribly disfigured by years of substance abuse.
3. A woman fascinated with – and upset about – minute details of her figure that no one else would ever notice, but that she was convinced everyone observed and commented about.

Of course, medical science has developed a number of very legitimate and useful “replacement parts,” such as knees, hips, etc.

Sadly, what many hopeful people see as quick fixes to poor health, or (more often) poor self-image, are neither quick nor a real fix at all. All too soon the nipped, tucked, implanted, or otherwise modified body once again begins its decline and change back into something the owner doesn't like. For those with money, this just keeps the surgeons in business, busy repairing the repairs.

Well, the fact is, Christians will all get a new spiritual body one day. A new body provided by God with no surgeons' fees and no painful recuperation: read and consider-

1 Corinthians 15:35-36: our new spiritual body will come at the resurrection, after the death of our physical, earthly body.

1 Corinthians 15:51-58: Our bodies will be *changed by God* from mortal to immortal! Note the “from” and “to” parallels in these verses:

1 Corinthians 15:42-44:

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| v. 42 – from <u>corruption</u> (decays) | to <u>incorruption</u> (ageless) |
| v. 43 – from <u>dishonor</u> (earthly & imperfect) | to <u>glory</u> (salvation) |
| v. 43 – from <u>weakness</u> (physical frailty & imperfection) | to <u>power</u> () |
| v. 44 – from <u>natural</u> (dust of the earth) | to <u>spiritual</u> (image of God) |

What an incredible day that will be for the saved! What a horrible day for the lost! Why worry about your physical body which ages day by day, when such a glorious future awaits the saved?