



**THIS IS MY BODY**

**CREMATION**

The Bible describes many burials, but nowhere gives specific instructions that God desires any particular type of disposal of a body. *“Let the dead bury their dead”* (Jesus) implies that we should be more concerned with life issues than death issues.

**FIRE** is a Scriptural symbol of God's judgment and wrath. For certain offences God instructed that corpses must be burnt (*Josh. 7, Lev. 20, 21*). Pagan people not only cremated remains but burned living children as sacrifices (11 Kings 17:30-31). The latter was severely condemned by the Lord (*Duet. 12:31, 18:9-12, Jer. 32:34-35*).

**FIRE** is also a Scriptural symbol of God's  
HOLINESS, POWER, AND PURITY.

The bizarre case of King Saul (*1 Samuel 31*)  
shows that cremation was also practiced out  
of respect and honor of the dead.

# NT PRINCIPLES

✓ “All food is clean.” (*Romans 14, 20, 1 Cor. 10:25*) i.e. no certain method or action is inherently sinful.

✓ Proceed... as long as able to do so “in faith” and for God’s glory (*1 Cor. 10:25-27, 31, Rom. 14:23*). Do not proceed... if this is not true (*Romans 14:14*).



✓ Do not allow your conscience to be “condemned” by the conscience of someone else (*Rom. 14:22, 1 Cor. 10:29*).

The Bible's focus is not on the method of DISCONNECTION, but on the miracle of RESURRECTION (*1 Cor. 15:52-55*)

**MY BODY** (natural vs. spiritual) (*1 Cor. 15*)

## Illustration = SEED/PLANT

- **collapse** – death and decay (36)
- **contrast** – emergence of new (different) form (37)
- **continuity** – same life/identity (38)

## CONTRAST?

- durability – perishable vs. imperishable
- value (potential) – dishonor vs. glory
- ability – weakness vs. power
- realm – natural vs. spiritual

But your dead will live. Their bodies will rise.  
You who dwell in the dust, wake up and  
shout for joy! You are like the morning dew.  
The earth will give birth to her dead.

*(Is. 26:19)*

But at that time your people, everyone whose name is found written in the book, will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake; some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt (*Dan. 12:2-3*).

Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out. Those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned (*John 5:28-29*).



The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed... and we eagerly wait for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope, we are saved... (*Rom. 8:18ff*)

... In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye  
at the last trumpet. For the trumpet  
will sound, the dead will be raised  
imperishable, and we will be changed!

*(1 Cor. 15:52)*