

Jesus' Resurrection: Beliefs and Social Consequences

Below are three representative belief systems and the stories they tell.

| | CLASSICAL GREEK & INDIAN RELIGIONS | CHRISTIANITY | ATHEISM |
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| US: What are we? | SOUL We are good, immortal souls trapped in a bad, mortal body | BODY AND SOUL We are both; both were created good | BODY We are physical, chemical beings |
| DEATH is...? | LIBERATION of the soul | THE ENEMY God will overthrow it in a fresh new creation | THE END of life and consciousness |
| HOPE: What is there to hope for? | DISEMBODIMENT the separation of soul from body | RESURRECTION God's renewal of the world, and us, affirmed by Jesus' bodily resurrection | NO CONSCIOUSNESS |
| GIVE WEALTH up for the poor, the weak...? | NO since other people's bodies are not important | ABSOLUTELY YES since people's bodies and souls are important. 'We share all things but our spouses.' | From NO (Social Darwinism) to SOMEWHAT (compassionate humanism) |
| SEX & MARRIAGE are...? | From NEUTRAL (Epicureans said have sex with anyone), to BAD (Stoics, Gandhi, etc. said don't have sex) | Marriage and sex are inseparably UNITED AND GOOD because God designed it that way. | Marriage is a CONSTRUCT . Sex is pleasurable but ultimately FUNCTIONAL , for the survival of the species. |
| POLITICAL POWER | CASTE SYSTEMS tend to emerge and people are encouraged to fit into the system | JESUS IS LORD, CAESAR IS NOT Christians claimed that Jesus was the true Lord; delegitimized the Roman Emperor; hence Rome killed many. The church is a RECONCILIATION MOVEMENT against war, racism, nationalism. | ENLIGHTENMENT ATHEISM with nation-building killed many; but PLURALISTIC ATHEISM developed later. SCIENTIFIC RACISM was also involved |