

What happens when we die?

Toward a better understanding of death

1. Do you think most people fear death? Why do you think this? Can you think of any customs (culturally) that illustrate basic misunderstandings about death?

2. Does the Bible offer a definition of *death*? Consider the following:

a. How do we understand verses like Ecclesiastes 9:2-5, 3:19-22? Consider the context carefully.

b. What about James 2:26, Ecclesiastes 12:6-7 and Genesis 35:18?

c. Have there been or will there be exceptions to this (Gen. 5:22-24; 2 Kings 2:11; 1 Thess. 4:13-18)?

3. Why does physical death occur (Rom. 5:12; Gen. 2:16-3:24)? What can we conclude (Heb. 9:27)?

4. With our understanding of Jesus' work and promises, should Christians fear death (Phil. 1:19-26; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; 5:8; John 14:1-3)?