

Cassandra Casias

**Resurrection of the Bodies:
Sexual Differentiation in Augustine's Heavenly City**

Augustine, bishop of Hippo in fifth-century Roman Africa, has influenced Western Christian understandings of sex and gender throughout the medieval and modern periods. This paper focuses on a particularly thorny subject in early Christian theology: the resurrection of the body, or the belief that Christ would revive the dead, body and soul, during his Second Coming. In the *City of God*, Augustine asserts that the resurrected bodies in heaven would keep the same sexual characteristics that they had on earth, disagreeing with the alternatives that other Christian writers proposed: either genderless bodies, or that resurrected women would be 'perfected' into men. In this paper, I explore the social issues of fourth-century Christianity and Augustine's personal experience as a bishop to argue that pastoral concerns about preserving the traditional family hierarchy caused Augustine to endorse the resurrection of women as women consistently throughout his career.