Cremation

Our apostle Paul was given information from Jesus Christ Himself.

1 Corinthians 14:37

If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that **the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.**

Paul wrote that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Our flesh and blood bodies cannot go to heaven. They are corrupt and mortal and must be changed to incorrupt and immortal to be fit for the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 15:50-53

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and **we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.**

Some people are concerned that, after their death, their body must remain intact—most probably embalmed, and maybe with some donated organs missing—so that God can resurrect it according to His plan. But there is nothing in the Bible to indicate that cremating our bodies interferes with God's plans for our resurrection. In fact, when you read verse 7 of Genesis 2, you discover that dust is what God used to form man in the beginning.

Genesis 2:7

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

After Adam had sinned, God told him that he was taken out of dust, he was dust, and he would return to dust. God still sees our bodies as dust, even when they are alive.

Genesis 3:19

In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for **out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.**

Abraham assured God that he knew he was dust.

Genesis 18:27-28

And Abraham answered and said, **Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes:** Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it.

In Job we find that all flesh, man and animals are made from dust and their bodies will return to dust.

Job 34:14-15

If he set his heart upon man, **if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.**

God knows us. He formed us from dust so our bodies are dust.

Psalms 103:14

For he knoweth our frame; **he remembereth that we are dust.**

The Psalmist reminds us that we are the same as all of God's creatures. When we die, we return to dust.

Psalms 104:28-30

That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good. Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: **thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.** Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.

Solomon, in the book of Ecclesiastes tells us the same thing. Man's bodies and animals' bodies all return to dust.

Ecclesiastes 3:20

For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; **so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All**

go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

The same is true of the spirits of men and animals. Their bodies return to dust, but their spirits, the breath that God gave them, return to Him.

Ecclesiastes 12:7
Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Paul tells us that whatever is planted (flesh or dust) is not what will come out of the ground when we meet our Lord in the air at the adoption,

1 Corinthians 15:35-38
But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And **that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain,** it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

Paul tells us that we shall all be changed at the last trump. That means no one (buried, cremated, or alive) is in the shape they need to be to enter Heaven. We shall all be changed.

<u>1 Corinthians 15:51-52</u>

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.