

THE UNITY OF THE HUMAN RACE IN DEATH AND LIFE

Romans 5:12-21

Why is there death and suffering in this world? Is there really such a thing as original sin? Are we really born “condemned in sin”? Is it fair that because of Adam’s sin we all die? It is actually good news that God views humanity as one single unit and that we are united to our Representative.

1.HUMANITY IN ADAM IS UNITED IN DEATH

- The head of the race sins and death enters the world – Genesis 2:16,17; 3:6-9 Before Adam, no death. Death is not “natural” or just a part of life. God’s Word has an explanation for death, pain, disease, “natural” disasters, etc. and also a remedy! Death is the result of sin and the last enemy to be destroyed - `1 Corinthians 15:26. Adam’s sin affects all of us - *“and all their unborn children die as the king and queen bow down to Satan’s hand.”* Adam’s sin ruins everything – Genesis 3:17-19. Adam poisoned the well and we all drink from it. Sin affects creation itself – Romans 8:20-22. Yes, there really is original sin. We are now all born sinners. We sin because we are sinners. *“In Adam’s fall we sinned all...Xerxes the Great did die, and so must you and I.” – The New England Primer, 1800’s.*
- The Law intensifies our guilt and holds us more accountable to God’s judgment. Where there is no Law there is still sin and death. But the Law shows us we are transgressors of God’s commandments – verse 20; Romans 3:19,20.
- In Adam death reigns – verse 14. Adam’s sin was unique – as our representative he had a choice to obey God’s one command. But now we are all born sinners. We are born with a “want to” to sin. We will all die physically and we are all born spiritually dead. In Adam as our Head we stand condemned. In our representative Adam we are under the reign of death, condemnation, and disobedience with no way out on our own. God imputes or counts Adam’s guilt to every one of us.
- It is essential to believe in a real historical Adam. Paul connects Adam to Christ – 1 Corinthians 15:45. Jesus is the new and last Adam, the new Head or Representative of a new race of humanity. Just as we actually died in a literal Adam, we will also actually be raised in a literal Christ. We must take all of God’s Word as true, especially the account of Adam and Eve and original sin

2.HUMANITY IN CHRIST IS UNITED IN LIFE

- Because of Adam’s sin Christ’s death was necessary for God to “impute” or count Christ’s righteousness to us. Just as in Adam our Head we are all counted sinners, so now for those in Christ Jesus we are counted righteous because of Christ’s obedience – 1 Corinthians 15:22. Christ is the Head or Representative of a New Humanity. For all those in Christ or united to Christ by faith we have new life. We are now under the reign of grace. We have the free gift of justification, being declared right with God – verse 16,19. We stand righteous in Christ – verse 17,19. Grace overflows to those in Christ – verses 20,21.
- It is a good thing God views all in Christ now as a single unit. God counts as righteous in Christ as our Representative. *“Upon a life I have not lived, Upon a death I did not die, Another’s life; Another’s death, I stake my whole eternity.”– Horatius Bonar, 1800’s.* The basis of our hope is that Christ has reversed the consequences of sin in Adam. *“It is our union with Adam that*

accounts for all our trouble. It is our corresponding union with Christ that accounts for our salvation.” – D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones.

- Only those in Christ are truly alive. Eternal life begins now and extends through eternity. We will see all things restored someday and the end of death once and for all. In God’s abounding grace what we lost in Adam is restored in Christ, plus a whole lot more! – Revelation 22:3-5.

Concluding Applications:

- You are either still in Adam or in Christ. Who is your Representative? Who or what is reigning over you?
- Are you living in the joy of life, grace, and God’s acceptance? Are you living out eternal life now by serving Jesus?
- Do you desire to share God’s grace in Christ? He is the only hope for a sin-cursed world.