

**Series: God & Abraham #1300**

**Title: 1 Corinthians 15**

***Adam and Jesus Christ***

Thank you for joining me today from wherever you are and by however you listen as we meet together coast-to-coast here in the United States and all the way around the world. Today is our last day talking about the imputation of Adam's sin to us, the imputation of our sin to Jesus Christ and the imputation of Christ's righteousness to us. The Bible speaks of these three acts of imputation, all acts of God. And we have covered them in as much detail as we have time for.

Yesterday, I said we are either in Adam *or* we are in Christ. And we talked about what this means. As seen in our relationship to Adam we are sinners. As seen in relationship to Christ we are righteous. My sincere desire and prayer is that *you* are in Christ. Do you want to be made righteous by God? Do you want to leave behind your unrighteous way of life? Are you looking for a way to change your behavior, to think and act differently? Do you want to be a "new you," as the popular phrase puts it?

To experience true change, lasting change, to really be a different person, this does not happen because of any change driven by *you*. None of us have even an iota of the will it takes to make positive changes from within ourselves. Many of us have tried this and failed repeatedly. I submit to you it is not *what* we need, but *who* we need. We all need Jesus Christ. Only He has the power – literally the power of God – to transform us from who we are to who He wants us to be.

So if you come to our time together today and you are struggling – maybe you are an addict and you want to be set free from whatever drug has taken you prisoner, maybe you know you aren't treating your spouse right and you do not want the divorce but you keep repeating the same mistakes – whatever the case may be, I invite you to stop trying to "do better" within your own power to do so. Instead, surrender your will to the will of God. Tell God, "I am tired of being in Adam. I am tired of my sin nature. I am asking you, God, to deliver me from my sin and to set me free. I want to live in Jesus." All of that can be said in a simple, basic prayer *from the heart*.

It is good to be at the end of yourself, hitting rock bottom, fresh out of all excuses, lying down and thinking, "nothing's going to change." Because when we are burned out of living *in* Adam, then we are ready to start living *in* Christ! As always, I share Jesus with you because I know, from personal experience, and I believe what the Bible says: Jesus is the way to peace with God, with ourselves, and peace in relationship to other people – yes, even our enemies and our loved ones who we have hurt and disappointed. So, let me say it again: call upon Jesus and you will be saved. He will transform your life. There will be noticeable change.

Do you want to talk with someone about this? Reach out to me today: [mark@godisministry.org](mailto:mark@godisministry.org). Your email is confidential between us. And while you write be sure and ask for "salvation," a resource you will want for our next week together. [mark@godisministry.org](mailto:mark@godisministry.org)

We are either in Adam *or* we are in Christ. And last time I shared with you how the Bible lays out at least five major ways in which Adam and Jesus Christ are similar. There are, obviously, significant differences (I am coming to one of those), but let me just put on your mind five similarities and all of these relate to my statement. We are either in Adam or we are in Christ. Last time we had the first four. I will get a running start by reminding you of these.

First, God has appointed both Adam and Jesus. God appointed Adam to be the representative of what became the sinful human race. And God appointed the Lord Jesus to be the representative of the righteous Christian race. Second, there are only two heads for all people (Adam or Christ).

Listen to 1 Corinthians 15, verse 45, "<sup>45</sup>So also it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living soul.' The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit." That is 1 Corinthians chapter 15, verse 45 and the Apostle Paul is again identifying Adam as the first man. (The representative man.) And Paul is identifying Jesus as the last man. (The representative man. The last of the Adams – the last of men.) It is one or the other.

Third, God made a covenant with both Adam and Jesus. God made that covenant with Adam we [red] about in Genesis 2, if you eat of that one tree you will surely die. Adam ate, so Adam died. But God also made a covenant with Jesus. This is the covenant of redemption. Father God agreed with His Son Jesus that if Jesus died for our sins, then God would give the followers of Christ to Him as His people.

Fourth, both Adam and Jesus represent all of their followers, all who come from them. Adam represents people who have only the sin nature. Jesus represents people who have the new nature. Here is this truth in Scripture, put beautifully. 1 Corinthians 15, verses 21 and 22. This is 1 Corinthians 15.21-22, **“<sup>21</sup> For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.”**

And fifth, both Adam and Jesus have passed onto their followers the effects of their work. For Adam the effects of his work are sin and disobedience. For Christ, the effects of His work are righteousness and obedience. To be in Adam means sin and disobedience. He passed along to us his work. To be in Jesus means righteousness and obedience. Jesus passed along His work to those of us who believe in Him as our Lord.

These are similarities between Adam and Christ, but there are also major differences. And I want to be sure to highlight one of these differences. It is crucial that we understand whereas when Adam sinned we all sinned, it is not likewise true that when Jesus obeyed we *all* obeyed. God imputed to every single human being the guilt of Adam’s sin. But God has *not* imputed to every single human being the righteousness of Christ. Not all people are Christians. Not all people are righteous in the eyes of holy God. Do you see the difference?

*All* have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, but not *all* have been redeemed from that sin. God is not a Universalist who saves everybody in the end. That is pure heresy and should be treated as such. Do not believe that you are OK with God simply because you exist. You are only OK with God if you live in Christ, if you have been given His righteousness. God requires that we be righteous, that we be made perfect as He is perfect, before we live in right relationship with Him. It is Jesus Christ who makes this possible. Apart from faith in Christ, we are doomed in judgment to an eternal and real hell, according to the Scriptures and Jesus Himself.

Clearly and obviously and sadly – this is very upsetting to us who believe in Jesus – tragically countless millions reject Christ. They shake their fists at God and go their own way in wilful and persistent disobedience and do so, upon their death, right into the presence of God – the Just Judge. These people will be condemned, according to the Scriptures.

So, the imputation of the guilt of Adam’s sin comes to all. But not the imputation of Christ’s righteousness comes to all. Earlier I [red] 1 Corinthians 15.22, which says, **“<sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.”** Notice please that in Adam all of us die. But, it is only in Christ, it is *only in Christ*, that we will be made alive. When Paul uses the word “all” in the second part of the verse he uses it differently than in the first part. “In Adam all die,” and all means every person. But “in Christ all will be made alive,” only means that those who are in Christ are made alive. We have to be careful with the word “all,” and note its context.

That is a *big* difference and needs to be highlighted in the discussion on imputation. Taken together, the Bible is clear: not everyone is *in* Christ and those who are not are not saved.

Let me end where I began, imputation can be hard to accept. God has imputed to us all the guilt of Adam’s sin. That may not sit well with you, but let me ask this question: do you believe the Bible? The Bible teaches imputation. So, if you find yourself pushing back against this, or wanting to dismiss it, I ask: will you believe the Bible or will you go with your gut instinct? For now, I leave you with this question.

On Monday, we will pivot and look at our salvation another way. And we will relate this back to Abraham. So, write and ask me for the resource called “salvation,” and then join us on Monday because God Is.

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