

Adam & Christ

In Romans, Paul writes to the church at Rome. Many of his direct statements apply, therefore, to the Believers. But Paul also speaks at times globally ... referring to all mankind.

"Therefore, even as through one man sin entered into the world, and through sin death, and thus death passed through into all mankind ..." (Romans 5:12)

Clearly no man, whether Believer or not, is exempt from this sweeping statement. **ALL** mankind have inherited this death condition. Recognizing that here Paul is talking about the state of all mankind, let us consider the comparison he makes between Adam and Christ.

Adam

The offense

The many died

Judgment is out of one
into condemnation

Death reigns thru the one

Thru one offense for all
mankind for condemnation

The many constituted sinners
thru one's disobedience

Christ

The grace

Grace to the many superabounds

Grace is out of many offenses
into a just award

Righteousness shall be reigning in
life thru the one, Jesus Christ

Thru one just award for all
mankind for life's justifying

The many constituted just
thru the one's obedience

Here two are contrasted, along with the affects they bring upon mankind. All are affected by Adam's offense. All are affected by Christ's obedience.

Those of the traditional church will contend that Christ's results are available to all mankind, but are contingent upon man's faith. But nothing on our part, including faith, can exclude us from the result of Adam's offense. And as Paul provides this clear parallel between Adam and Christ, we see nothing in his words that would be required on man's part to gain the affects of Christ's actions.

What separates the Believer and the Unbeliever is only God's timing. Again in 1 Corinthians Paul compares Adam with Christ:

“For even as, in Adam, all are dying, thus also, in Christ, shall all be vivified. Yet each in his own class: the Firstfruit, Christ; thereupon those who are Christ’s in His presence; thereafter the consummation, whenever He may be giving up the kingdom to His God and Father, whenever He should be nullifying all sovereignty and all authority and power...” (1 Corinthians 15:22-25)

Referring to the resurrection unto life (vivification), we see the following order in Paul’s words:

First: Christ (the Firstfruit)
Next: Those who are Christ’s
Last: The consummation (the end ... the remainder of mankind)

It is for this reason that Christ reigns ... to call to Himself the lost sheep, to the last one. And when all are reconciled to God, when the affects of Christ’s obedience are complete, having fully reversed the negative affect of Adam’s offense, He gives up the kingdom to God the Father. He reigns not forever and ever as most Bible translations state ... but for the eons ... until His work is complete. And His work is not complete until all are reconciled to God.

Let us look at one final passage, where Paul speaks of Christ in the following way:

*“... Who is the image of the invisible God, Firstborn of every creature, for in Him is all created, that in the heavens and that on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones, or lordships, or sovereignties, or authorities, **all is created through Him** and for Him, and He is before all, and all has its cohesion in Him.” (Colossians 1:14-17)*

Quite clearly this refers to ALL mankind ... and not only all mankind but ALL things. Now consider the verses that immediately follow:

*“And He is the Head of the body, the ecclesia, Who is Sovereign, Firstborn from among the dead, that in all He may be becoming first, for in Him the entire complement delights to dwell, and through **Him to reconcile all to Him** (making peace through the blood of His cross), through Him, whether Those on the earth or those in the heavens.” (Colossians 1:15-20)*

Another universal parallel presented by Paul. God created, through Christ, ALL ... not just Believers. And thru Christ He will reconcile ALL ... not just Believers.

As we proclaim the gospel to the world, as Christ’s Ambassadors, let us not reduce the affects of Christ’s work. Let us not accept the errors of mankind since “orthodoxy” was established in the 5th century, proclaiming that God will give up on some of the lost sheep. We see clearly in these parallels presented by Paul ... ALL will be reconciled to God before the work of Christ is concluded.

- Bob Evely -