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Grace Evangelical Church
Sunday, September 7, 2008 – Communion Sunday
2008 Fall Message Series – “Life Lessons From Biblical Personalities”
“Related To Whom?? – The First & Second Adam
Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7, 15; 3:6-7; Romans 5:12-17

A man and his wife hadn't been communicating for some time. One Sunday afternoon, they went for a ride in the country. As they rode along, the husband spotted a couple of mules on the other side of the fence along the road. For the first time in three weeks he spoke to her, "Some of your relatives?" he asked. She was equal to the occasion, and fired back, "Yes, on my husband's side." And back into their stewing silence they went.

All of us have relatives. I'm sure they are not in the category just mentioned. Perhaps, though, you have done some research on your family tree. I know my uncle Frank, my father's brother, did some research on the Bawden family tree when in England a number of years ago. He sent me a copy and I have it here with me this morning. The Bawden background can be traced to the southern part of England around Redruth, Cornwall. He discovered that there was even a Bawden College. My father's Dad and Mother, my grandfather and grandmother, Tom and Mina Bawden are buried out in the Arena cemetery. The Bawden farm is still in the family, and my cousin is seeking to fix up the house and make it livable again. In talking with him recently, he also wants to repair the barn and the chicken house.

As a person traces his or her family tree, it becomes obvious that eventually we all go back to Adam and Eve.

I. Adam and Eve were our first parents (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7; 22).

1. Adam and Eve were distinct from the animal world.

They were created in the image of their Creator – that is having a personality, with a mind, emotion, and will. Thusly they could think, love and act, responding to God in worship and obedience, and respond to one another, yes complementing one another.

Of course, in the popular arena today, such teaching is not accepted, as well as not being accepted in our public educational institutions. The denial of God creating the world doesn't mean God is not the Creator of the world. It's well to note that Christ believed that Adam and Eve were created (Matthew 19:3), saying, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female." And who was the Creator? Of course, Christ Himself, according to Colossians 1:15.

2. Adam and Eve were the human race at the time of their creation.

Which meant that whatever Adam and Eve did would affect the rest of their posterity. Yes, they were the representatives of the rest of humanity.

II. Adam and Eve's disobedience brought the sin nature into the human race (Genesis 3:8).

1. When they disobeyed God, they hid from Him – they felt guilty, they knew they had not obeyed the Lord.

Yes, they had sinned, missed God's standard of holiness. They now had a sin nature. Now their spiritual nature was sinful meaning their mind, will, and emotion was affected directly by their disobedience. The word used is that they became depraved in their mind, emotion, and will. Paul describes the situation in Ephesians 2:1 as being dead in trespasses and sin, alive physically but dead spiritually before God in one's mind, will, and emotion.

2. The sin nature of Adam and Eve was passed onto their children (Genesis 4:1-8).

Cain became angry at his brother Abel, for God accepted Abel's offering and not his. He became so angry that Cain killed his brother Abel. Cain's hatred led to murder.

3. By the time of Noah the world was corrupt (Genesis 6:5).

"Then the LORD say that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." The sin nature had overtaken humanity.

4. David recognized that the sin nature was in the human race (Psalm 51:5).

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me."

David was not saying that the acts of giving birth or conceiving are in themselves sinful, but that **from the moment of conception a person possesses a sinful nature.**

There has been a discussion among theologians regarding what's involved in the transmission of the sin nature from one person to the other in the reproduction process.

Some feel that the soul of a person is created by God when the body is born, which has been called **creationism.**

The other idea is called **traducianism** – which teaches that the soul is transmitted by natural generation just as the body is. I believe that is what David is saying in Psalm 51:5 – that from the moment of conception a person possesses a sinful nature. **The sin nature is passed on through conception.**

There is no doubt, as the prophet Jeremiah recognized, that the heart is more deceitful than all else, and is desperately sick or wicked, who can understand it (Jeremiah 17:9).

That's hard to believe, especially when that new baby is held in the mother's arms or the father's arms. But it is true. All of us are born with a sin nature.

III. The sin nature inherited from Adam produces sin in a person's life.

1. Adam and Eve were created without a sin nature, but with the ability to obey or disobey God.

Of course, Adam and Eve were created without a sin nature, but they were created with a personality that could make choices. They were not robots. They had the choice to follow God's directive not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or to eat of that tree.

When they disobeyed God, they actually inherited the sin nature that Satan has. The corrupt nature of Satan came into the lives of Adam and Eve and is now passed on from one generation to the next.

2. The sin nature gives evidence of its corruption by the sins it commits.

- Cain's expressed anger at Abel and killing him were acts of sin coming from the old nature that was corrupt.
- The corrupt and wicked behavior in Noah's day were acts of sin coming from their old nature.
- Down through history in the Bible with the rebellious acts of the nation Israel, the people were showing they had a sin nature inherited from Adam.
- Yes, in the days of the New Testament, in the history from then into the 21st century, the immoral and sinful acts of humanity are due to the sin nature in the human race inherited from Adam.

Christ described this reality in **Mark 7:21-23** – "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

Paul tells us in **Galatians 5:19-21** that the "deeds of the flesh (the old sinful nature) are immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, and carousings."

Sad to say, these sinful acts are not learned. We don't learn to be a sinner. We are sinners, and our various thoughts, attitudes, and actions display that we are. Francis Schaeffer used to say that if you don't believe that tie a tape recorder to yourself and let it run all day recording all you say, and you will discover that you are a sinner, you break God's commands and directives.

Such is a bleak situation to say the least. Being related to Adam, we find ourselves weighed in the balances and found wanting.

We have a sin nature inherited from Adam. This sin nature causes us to be spiritually dead before God with the desire not to please Him and to sin by being selfish, stubborn, and not teachable, plus doing what we shouldn't at time. In addition, we have physical death within us, meaning we are all going to pass from this life some time.

Paul, in Romans 5:12, summarized our pitiful condition in Adam, "Therefore just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, so death spread to all men, because all sinned."

It's no wonder that Paul says that we are all people most miserable. Unless there is an answer to such a dire situation. Unless there is hope!

And Praise God! That's what this table of the Lord is all about. There is hope! There is an answer, there is a solution, to our sinful condition and to our sinning against the biblical God.

IV. The solution provided to our inherited sin nature from Adam.

What does Romans 5:17 tell us?

"For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one (Adam), much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the ONE, Jesus Christ."

Paul in I Corinthians 15:22 – As in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive."

1. The second Adam, Jesus Christ, is the solution to our inherited sin nature from Adam.

(1) In His life on earth, as the God-man, He fulfilled the entire law of God in His life, obeying His heavenly Father in every point of the law. So He did no sin in His life on earth. "He is the end of the law for righteousness" (Romans 10:4) As result. . . .

(2) In His death, He could satisfy God's justice (propitiation – I John 2:1-2), paying the penalty for our sin which is death (the wages of sin is death –gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord Romans 6:23).

(3) In His bodily resurrection, He demonstrated his power over physical death, and won for us God's forgiveness, and God's very nature, resurrection life, yes a new nature, a new mind, will, and emotion. Peter says we can be partakers of the divine nature (II Peter 1:4).

In His death and bodily resurrection, the second Adam, Jesus Christ, stripped the old nature of its power and provided for us a new nature, His very life, which has a new mind, emotion, and will through His bodily resurrection.

Jesus Christ, the second Adam, doesn't just provide us His life, a new nature, He also provides us forgiveness of sins that come from that old nature.

2. The second Adam, Jesus Christ, is the solution to our sins we commit because we possess the old nature.

(1) He provides us forgiveness of all of our sins.

We have redemption through His blood the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace (Ephesians 1:7). All of our sins big and small are forgiven in Jesus Christ.

(2) He provides us the opportunity to be identified with Him in His death, burial and bodily resurrection so there is available the option to do God's will not our own (Romans 6).

How can this solution Christ provides for us who have inherited the Adamic nature causing sin in our lives, be ours personally?

V. The solution Christ provides for us must be entered into by one's personal faith in Him.

Note what Romans 5:17 says again.

"**much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness.**" That refers directly to Jesus Christ.

The first word is

(1) Receive – yes accept who Jesus Christ is, the God-man and Savior of the world, and what He has done for you. Admit to Him that you have sinned against Him, and ask Him into your life to forgive your sin and give you His eternal life.

As many as received Him to them He gave the power to become the children of God – to be in His spiritual family, yes in His body, His church. We become eternally related to Jesus Christ, heirs of God and joint heirs of Jesus Christ. Think of that!!

When a person accepts Jesus Christ as personal Savior, he or she receives the very nature of God, the divine nature. If you know Christ as your personal Savior today, you possess the very nature of God, His eternal life. You have a new spiritual mind, emotion, and will, that of Jesus Christ. Amazing, to say the least.

Also----

When a person accepts Jesus Christ as personal Savior, all of his or her sins are forgiven, no matter what they are. That is truly amazing grace, yes how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me, I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.

As far as the east is from the west, so far as He removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12).

The Apostle Paul never got over the fact that he, as he called himself the foremost of sinners, was shown mercy by God, so that He could accept Christ as his Savior and serve Him with the utmost commitment and enthusiasm.

God showed me mercy- He didn't give me what I deserved. I deserved judgment. He gave me mercy.

The first Adam gave us a sin nature which brought spiritual death, an old sin nature causing us to sin.

The second Adam showed us mercy and provided us forgiveness of our sins and a new nature, His very life.

Receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior so you can possess His nature and forgiveness of sins. I trust that you have made that decision for Christ.

But there is another word in this text in Romans 5:17. Not only receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior receiving His very nature and forgiveness of all of your sins. But - -

(2) Reign -

Note what the text says,

"Reign in life through the ONE, Jesus Christ.

The new nature the believer receives in Jesus Christ will never grow and mature without the reality of this verse taking root in his or her life. The believer needs a new authority in one's life. **Christ is that authority, brought about by the believer letting the Holy Spirit have control of his or her life.**

That's why we mentioned a moment ago that Christ in His death, burial, and bodily resurrection provides the believer to be identified with Him His death, burial, and bodily resurrection. The believer has been spiritually crucified, buried, and risen with Christ.

Recognizing that, according to Romans 6:11 – the believer is to account one's self dead to sin, and alive in Christ. The believer, by obeying the indwelling Holy Spirit, can give evidence of the new nature of God alive in one's life, which is really letting Christ live out His life through the believer.

That is what the fruit of the Holy Spirit is all about – Christ-likeness (Galatians 5:22-23).

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

That is what I Corinthians 13:4- 8a is all about – Christ-likeness.

Love is patient, kind, not jealous, doesn't brag is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, love never fails.

That's what the virtues of II Peter 1:5-7 is all about – Christ-likeness

Add to your faith, "moral excellence, to moral excellence, knowledge, to knowledge, self-control, to self-control, perseverance, to perseverance, godliness, and to godliness, brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, love."

It's easy to read those passages of Scripture, and say, "Amen." I believe that. But to let those Christ-like qualities to be part of our lives, is always a challenge. Why?

We are still in our Adamic bodies, and the Adamic nature, the sin nature is still there, and it wants to flare its head and cause us not to display the person of Jesus Christ. It doesn't want us to be kind and helpful. It doesn't want us to have a forgiving spirit. It wants us to be selfish and stubborn, doing our will rather than God's will.

And Satan loves to have us show the evidences of the Adamic nature because we are really showing off his characteristics which glorify him rather than Christ.

But now with the indwelling Holy Spirit within us, as believers in Jesus Christ, we have the option in the power of the Holy Spirit to say "NO" to the dictates of the old Adamic nature, and "YES" to the Holy Spirit and think Christ's thoughts, love like Christ, and do the will of God.

Certainly, the believer will sin at times, it will be the exception rather than the rule. But when the believer does sin, one confesses that sin to the Lord (I John 1:9) and then goes on in the power of the Holy Spirit to serve the Lord. Or if the believer has offended someone, he or she goes and asks forgiveness gaining reconciliation.

We started this message by talking about the fact that we all have relatives. But ultimately we are all related to Adam who gave us a sin nature that sins against God.

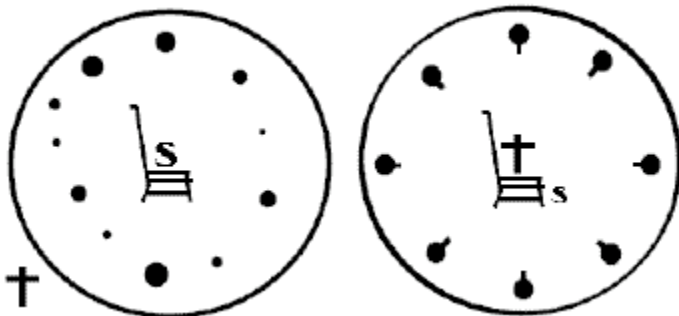
Christ has come and through His death, burial, and bodily resurrection has provided us a new nature and His forgiveness so that through faith in Him, we become eternally related to Him, being in His family forever.

How can you tell if you are really related to Jesus Christ by faith, and are seeking to live for Him?

I believe the answer is this.

- **How sensitive are you and I to the Holy Spirit who lives in our lives as followers of Jesus Christ? Paul told the Galatians to *walk continually in the Spirit* and they would not fulfill the lusts of the flesh, that is follow the dictates of the old Adamic sinful nature (Galatians 5:16).|**
- **Are our hearts pricked, convicted by the Holy Spirit, when we think a thought that we shouldn't, when we say a word that is not right, or do something that is not in accord with God's will? Or do we just go on and do our thing not letting the Holy Spirit cause us to confess our sin to the Lord, or talk to someone asking forgiveness?**
- **How quick we are to obey the Lord and confess our sin when we sin is clear evidence that we are related spiritually to Jesus Christ forever? I trust that we keep short accounts, if we don't we soon become hardened to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and act our own way rather than obeying the Lord.**
- **We only reign in life through ONE Jesus Christ and show forth His character as we let the Holy Spirit continually mold us into the likeness of Jesus Christ.**

Perhaps these two circles summarize what it means to receive Christ and reign in life through Him as we obey the indwelling Holy Spirit. In which circle are you?



And, of course, when as believers, we pass from this life, we will go into the presence of our Lord. When he returns, He will bring with Him those who have gone into His presence giving them new bodies raised from the grave, and we who are alive will go with them with bodies made new and the Adamic sin nature gone forever.

Death spiritually and physically will be defeated forever.

We will live with Christ and serve Him throughout eternity.

What a relationship to have!

It's all of God. Give Him the Glory!!!