

Genesis, part 5 – The necessity of Changing Races – Genesis 3

"The Jesus which the Bible presents never really existed." Albert Schweitzer

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the animals that the LORD God had made." Genesis 3:1a

"And he said to the woman, 'Did God really say: "You shall not eat from any tree in the Garden?"'"
Genesis 3:1b

"And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the Garden.'" Genesis 3:2

"But from the tree that is in the middle of the Garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will surely die.'" Genesis 3:3

"And the serpent said to the woman, 'You shall not surely die! For God knows that when you eat of it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'" Genesis 3:4, 5

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she also gave some of it to her husband Adam with her, and he ate." Genesis 3:6

"Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves." Genesis 3:7

"Then they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the Garden in the cool of the day." Genesis 3:8a

"And the man and his wife hid themselves among the trees of the Garden from the presence of the LORD God." Genesis 3:8b

"Then the LORD God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?' And Adam said, 'I heard You in the Garden and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.'" Genesis 3:9, 10

"And God said to him, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree concerning which I commanded you not to eat?'" Genesis 3:11

"And the man said, 'The woman, that You gave me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.'" Genesis 3:12

"Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What have you done?' And the woman said, 'The serpent deceived me and I ate.'" Genesis 3:13

As a result of what Adam and Eve did, their relationship with God was **radically altered**.

"The man and his wife hid themselves among the trees of the Garden from the presence of the LORD."
Genesis 3:8b

"Adam said, 'I heard You in the Garden and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.'" Genesis 3:10
What Adam and Eve did affects you, me, and every human being alive.

"Therefore, as by one man sin entered the world [Adam], and death through sin [Genesis 3], so death passed onto all people, **for all sinned**." Romans 5:12

"For if by one man's trespass [Adam in the Garden of Eden], death reigned – how much more will [eternal] life reign in those who receive God's gift of righteousness through Jesus Christ?" Romans 5:17

"Therefore, just as one man's trespass [Adam's] brought judgment to all men, so one man's act of righteousness [Jesus' death on the cross] brings justification of life." Romans 5:18

"For as by one man's disobedience [Adam in the Garden] many [every member of Adam's race] were made sinners [in God's sight], so also by one Man's obedience [Jesus on the cross] many [every member of Jesus Christ's race] will be made righteous [in God's sight]." Romans 5:19

In these verses the Bible is explaining to us the **basis** upon which people go to heaven or to hell. The **basis** has everything to do with what "spiritual race" we are in.

Romans 5 is teaching us that the whole story of the human race can be summed up in terms of two men: Adam and Jesus Christ – each of whom is the "head" of a spiritual race.

In God's mind there are only two races of people in this world: "Adam's race" and "Jesus Christ's race."

"For as **in Adam** [race #1] all die, so **in Christ** [race #2] all shall be made alive." 1 Corinthians 15:22

Each one of us here today – in God's judicial sight – is either "In Adam" or "In Christ."

Even though God cares about us as individuals, this doesn't change the fact that – first and foremost – God sees us as part of a "race" and treats us accordingly.

As members of a "spiritual race," each of us has a union with the **head** of our race.

The Doctrine of Federal Headship

- Adam is the "federal head" of his race
- Jesus Christ is the "federal head" of His race

Whatever each "head" did before God – whether it resulted in blessing or curse – every member of their race gets credited with it and lives with the consequences of it.

The way our nation is set up, the President of the United States is the "federal head" of every American.

The doctrine of "Federal headship" forms the basis of the Bible's teaching in Romans 5.

Because Adam is the "federal head" of the human race, every human being inherits and lives with the consequences of Adam's actions in the Garden.

What did our "federal head" earn for us when he ate from the tree?

- Romans 5:12 – "death"
- Romans 5:18 – "God's judgment"
- Romans 5:19 – "made sinners"

". . . so death passed onto all people, **for all sinned.**" Romans 5:12

"For this is why death existed from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin like Adam did, by breaking a direct commandment of God." Romans 5:14

Between the time of Adam and Moses, there were no formal laws or commandments from God for people to disobey like Adam did in the Garden.

- If the only way to become a "sinner" in God's sight and to earn the "penalty for sin" (death) . . .
- Is to break a command of God like Adam did in the Garden . . .
- Then between Adam and Moses, people **couldn't** become sinners . . .

- Which means – between Adam and Moses – no one should have died

But in spite of this, every person who lived between Adam and Moses **did** die – which proves that there was another **problem/reason why** people died.

This problem was that God regarded every human being born between Adam and Moses as “sinners” – because they were all members of Adam’s race.

What makes all of us “sinners” in God’s sight is that we belong to a **race** whose “federal head” [Adam] is a sinner.

The great news of the Bible is that God has created an entirely new “spiritual race” that we can transfer into if we want – a race whose “federal head” is the Risen Lord Jesus Christ!

1 Corinthians 15:45 – “the second Adam”

We get into this new race by trusting Jesus Christ as our Savior – and just like the members of Adam’s race inherit all the curses Adam earned before God – the members of Christ’s race inherit all the blessings He earned before God.

- Romans 5:18 – “justification”
- Romans 5:19 – “made righteous in God’s sight”
- Romans 5:21 – “eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”

This is the **dynamic principle** that underlies our salvation in Jesus Christ.

God “births” us into an entirely new “spiritual race” – where the blood of Jesus covers our sin and the righteousness of Jesus Christ absolves it forever!

“Unless a person is born again, they cannot see the Kingdom of God.” John 3:3

Therefore, salvation in Jesus Christ is all about “switching races.”

So What?

The most common reason why followers of Christ don’t share their faith is because they don’t **really** believe – that apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ – people are utterly lost and headed for hell!

As followers of Christ, what compels us to take the risk of sharing Christ with others is the unshakeable conviction that without Jesus Christ – every human being alive is going to hell forever!

Question #1 – “As a follower of Christ, do you leave your house every day – actively looking for opportunities – to share Christ with every member of Adam’s race you possibly can?”

Question #2 – “If **not** . . . why not?”

“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes . . .” Romans 1:16