

First Adam

Corporate/Federal Head of Fallen Humanity and Condemned Creation
Dominion of Death-Sin Reigns

Romans 5:12-21

(1 Corinthians 15:21-22)

“The universal consequences of Adam’s sin are the *assumption* of Paul’s argument; the power of Christ’s act to cancel those consequences is its *goal*” (Moo). “What we *are* and what we *become* as individuals is the mere outcome of their deeds” (Seifrid).

Second/Last Adam (aka: Jesus)

Corporate/Federal Head of Redeemed Humanity and the New (Re-) Creation
Dominion of Righteousness-Grace Reigns leading to Life

Rom. 5:17 – recipients of the free gift “enjoy a transfer from this domain to the other” (Moo).

The Fall: Eve sinned through deception, but Adam sinned as corporate head. Therefore, all humanity sinned “*in and with*” Adam. The results for ALL of humanity (including unborn, infants, children & mentally disabled) are twofold:

NOTE: We must avoid our fallen notions of “fairness” here to understand the parallelism between Adam & Jesus Paul is making. If we affirm we are “in and with” Christ in His righteousness and resurrection, we have to acknowledge that we are “in and with” Adam in his condemnation and guilt. We need Jesus!

We must see the use and importance of Paul’s forensic language to understand that he is illustrating our very real judicial standing and/or position before the Holy Creator God and Judge. “**Imputation**” designates this standing before God. This is the meaning behind **Romans 5: 18-19**. Verse 18a and 19a refer to Adam while 18b and 19b refer to Jesus (cf. **2 Cor. 5:21**). “Just as Adam’s sin is imputed to us because we were in him, so Christ’s righteousness is imputed to us because we are in him” (Piper).

Original Sin

Has its *origin* in Adam’s sin and speaks of our fallen inherent depravity as being dead in our trespasses and unable to do anything pleasing to God without His gift of regeneration. This is our evil rebellious sin-nature. “We sin because we are sinners” (Gen. 8:21; Psalm 51:5; Prov. 22:15; *Job 15:14; Eph. 2:1-3; Col. 1:21, 2:13).

Imputed Guilt of Adam

Adam’s sin and condemnation became ours. While actual/personal sin was in the world prior to the Mosaic Law, people died, NOT because of their personal transgressions against specific commands from God (as with the Adamic Prohibition or the Mosaic Law), BUT because of the *imputation* of Adam’s sin and guilt to us as humans.

Christology

QUESTION: If Jesus is both fully God and **fully human**, how is He free from original sin and the imputed guilt of Adam? How do we affirm Christ’s sinlessness (John 8:46a; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15, 7:26; 1 Peter 1:19, 2:22)?

ANSWER: His **Virgin Birth** as the **Last/Second** Adam. In Luke 1:35, he is “holy” in being conceived by the Holy Spirit; set aside by His Heavenly Father without a fallen human/angelic father (cf. Gen 6:4). Jesus is the exception to *Job 15:14. Having no earthly father, He avoids the biblical intimation that Adam’s sin/guilt is passed on through the father who represents his descendants (Heb. 7:9-10). Although sinless, Jesus was *peccable* (capable of sinning) in His human nature; however, He did not due to His “unceasing reliance” upon the Holy Spirit who is *impeccable* (Storms). Essentially, Jesus did what Adam failed to do at the Fall with the same human nature of Adam prior to his transgression in the Garden. We are called to live as Jesus according to the Spirit (Gal. 5:16-18); however, we continue to struggle with original sin, resulting in actual sins, until the consummation of the eschaton at Christ’s Return when we’re **glorified**. (Ref. Gen. 3:13-16 and Gal. Gal.3:16)

QUESTION: If we are saved by grace *through faith*, how do we understand the salvation of infants, children and the mentally disabled child or adult?

ANSWER: “**Condition** of accountability” (MacArthur). While Psalm 22:9-10 reveals David’s saving relationship with God since the womb, other biblical evidence intimates that God saves *all* persons of this group who die. “If a person did not have access to the revelation of God’s glory - did not have the natural capacity to see it and understand it, then Paul [and Jesus imply] they would have an excuse at the judgment (Romans 1:19-20, cf. John 9:41). *In his mercy* [God] desires that compassion be exercised upon those who are sinful and yet lack the capacity to grasp the truth revealed about Him in nature and to the human heart” (Piper). NOTE: This inability to grasp the truth God has revealed of Himself through general and special revelation is a result of the imputation of Adam’s sin/guilt which results in condemnation, suffering and death for everyone.

The people to the left are guilty yet saved by **grace** according to God’s mercy; just not through any evidence of faith.

Imputation (Justification) verses Impartation (Sanctification) / “Fruit” of God’s Righteousness via the Holy Spirit (regenerating and subsequent indwelling and filling of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Believers): Philippians 3:9 is one example of imputation. We in ourselves are not righteous but declared so “in and with” Jesus (cf. 2 Cor. 5:21). 1 John 3:9 and 2 Peter 1:4 are examples of the impartation (NOT infusion) of God’s righteousness and is related to the subjective work of Christ’s Spirit (Gal. 5:22,23; Rom. 8:4).