

I. All humanity is born “In Adam”

A. In chapters five and six of the book of Romans, the apostle Paul lays out what it means to be “in Adam” and then makes the transition to being “in Christ”. This is a truth that is discussed in many places in the scriptures, but is perhaps made the clearest here in Romans. (Rom. 5:12-6:14)

1. Through one man, sin entered the world - as a result of Adam's sin, we all enter the world with a fallen nature. The theological term for this is original sin—the sinful tendencies, desires, and dispositions in our hearts with which we are all born. Original sin is something inherent in us--it is a morally ruined character and we have this because we are all “in or from Adam”.
2. All sinned in Adam - We are not sinners because we sin; rather, we sin because we are sinners. Because we are all “in Adam,” we are all born imprisoned in sin. Sin reigns in us and over us like a tyrant from whom there is no escape. The guilt of Adam's sin is credited not just to Adam himself, but to us all. We are regarded as having sinned in Adam, and justly found as deserving of the same punishment. The theological term for this is imputed sin.
3. Adam is the type of He who was to come - Adam is a type (a picture, or representation) of Jesus. Both Adam and Jesus were completely sinless men from the beginning and both of them did things that had consequences for all mankind.

B. All humanity exists with two things that need a remedy to restore us to the intended relationship and purpose of God. One is our sinful nature that enslaves us to sin handed down to us through original sin. The other is all of humanity's guilt and condemnation that is rooted in our connection to Adam and his sin through imputed sin.

1. All humanity, whether they accept it or not, finds their identity in Adam. The answer to the question of “who are you” for those in Adam is “I am a sinner, trapped in sin, guilty before God, and estranged from God and His goodness.”

II. The Remedy

- A. Throughout the Old Testament, God shows us and demonstrates clearly that humanity needs a remedy. He gives us the law through Moses in order to inform and make clear the depths of our depravity and need for salvation. Once the law is established and righteousness is understood, He then starts declaring through the prophets that He is going to bring a remedy. This remedy would deal with the twofold problem of our sin “in Adam”. (Deut. 30:5-6; Eze. 11:19-20; Jer. 31:31-34; Isa. 59:9-17)

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers.....my covenant that they broke..... For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.....For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” (Jer. 31:31-34)

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will keep my judgments and do them. (Eze. 36:26-27)

1. New Heart - God, through a new covenant, was going to miraculously create in humanity a new heart. This would immediately deal with the problem of imputed sin. They would be forgiven of their sin because the inherited calloused heart of stone they received from Adam would be replaced with a heart of flesh received from God.
 2. New Spirit - God promised humanity not just a new or different spirit, but rather, He promised humanity His Spirit. Humanity's current inherited spirit in Adam, which by nature gravitated towards sin, would be taken away and replaced by God's own Spirit, thus immediately changing the nature of humanity from having an inherited sin nature to having God's righteous nature.
- B. In terms of Identity - The remedy that God promised to save humanity would not just save them from sin but give them a new identity. Rather than an identity in Adam, they would have a new identity because they would, in fact, be a different type of humanity.

III. Reborn “in Christ”

- A. Picking up where we left off in Romans, Paul explains in the exact same way that we are born into Adam; that we, through faith, can die and be born again into Christ. How is this possible? It is possible because Jesus lived a sinless life and then died for sin, and rose again in our place. (Rom 5:15-21)

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the remission (pardon and removal) of sins. (Mat. 26:26-28)

1. His Death on our Behalf gives us a New Heart and deals with Imputed Sin or Sinful Actions - Jesus, being sinless, died a sinner's death on our behalf, thus removing the issue of humanity's imputed sin and sinful actions. Through His death, all of our committed sins past, present, and future have been paid for through the just penalty of death. Now all of humanity who are “in Christ” are forgiven of their sin and justified in righteousness before God.
2. His Resurrection on our Behalf gives us a new Spirit and deals with Original Sin or Sinful Nature- After removing the issue of imputed sin and the penalty for sinful actions, Jesus rose from the dead on our behalf, thus granting the ability to us to be reborn through faith in Him from death to life. This substitutionary work positions us to receive a new spirit because our inherited spirit from Adam died with Jesus. Through His resurrection, Jesus deals with our original sin nature. For those “in Christ,” we are raised up from the dead with Jesus through faith and given new life through His Spirit.

IV. Therefore Reckon Yourselves

- A. Whereas, at one time, you rightly identified yourself “in Adam” as a sinner in bondage to sin and deserving of God's just punishment for your sin, now, for those “in Christ,” you have a new identity. Through faith in Jesus you are now “in Christ” and need to identify yourself as a new man, freely forgiven of all sin—past, present, and future. Not only that, but you have a different nature. You have God's Spirit in you, and His Spirit is victorious over sin and able to produce in you the characteristics of righteousness.

- B. New Creation - All of the truths of who we once were in Adam, and corresponding consequences to who we now are in Christ, are summed up by Paul into one simple yet powerfully transformative identity.... **You are a New Creation**. No one who is in Christ should any longer identify themselves as a sinner under sin, and estranged from God under the just judgment of God. To do this is an insult to the substitutionary work of Jesus, and an affront to powerful truths of His work which are given to cause us to walk in our new identity in Him.

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Cor. 5:14-17)

But as for me, may I never boast in anything except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of the cross, my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world's interest in me has died. It doesn't matter whether we have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation. May God's peace and mercy be upon all who live by this principle; they are the new people of God. (Gal 6:14-15 NLT)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)

that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. (Eph. 4:22-24)

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, (Col. 3:10)

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." (Rev. 21:5)