

CHRIST THE



TRUE & BETTER

Christ, the True and Better Adam

Key idea:

We live in a world made by two men. Adam's sin plunges the world into chaos and curse and gives us an inheritance of sin, shame, guilt, hell, and death. But Christ comes as the true and better Adam to undo Adam's sin and our's, and give us new life.

Key text:

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

⁴⁵So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. ⁴⁸As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.

Key points:

1. The story of your life has been shaped by the lives of many who have gone before you. But the world has been shaped by the stories of two men: Adam and Jesus Christ.
2. Adam and Eve were given everything, yet it was not enough. In their pride and selfishness, they wanted to be like God; having the power to decide right and wrong.
3. In their sin, Adam and Eve alienate themselves, and all humanity, from God, the source of spiritual and physical life.
4. Many people object to the idea that they should be found guilty for one man's sin. But we have all inherited pride, selfishness and mistrust of God from Adam.
5. In Adam, our destiny is dust. But Christ takes our penalty, suffers for us, undoes the Sin of Adam, and offers us life.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Do you believe one person can change the world? In small ways? In big ways?
3. Can you name ways in which people who have come before you have made decisions that have shaped your life for good or for bad?
4. Do you agree or disagree with Salmon Rushdie that we cannot wipe out the impact on our lives of our parent's thoughts, actions, and choices?
5. How can we believe in a good and all-powerful God when there is so much sin and suffering in the world?
6. Do you agree that evil requires an objective standard of right or wrong, or do you think people can define evil however they want?
7. Do you believe that a humanist philosophy that denies the existence of a loving, sacrificing, and suffering God can legitimately complain about things like evil, pain, sickness, or death?
8. What do you believe was the fundamental sin of Adam and Eve? Disobedience? Pride? Legalism? And do you think you're penalized for their sin? Is that fair?
9. Why do you think the sin of the serpent is not counted against creation in the way that Adam's sin brings curse, suffering, and death to humanity?
10. Can you think of ways you have mistrusted God, or doubted His goodness and generosity, and put your hope for happiness, meaning, or purpose in other things?
11. What do you think Paul means when he says in romans 7:19, "the evil I do not want to do - this I keep doing."
12. Does it bother you that God does not provide an answer for Job's suffering, or maybe for your's? How do you feel that rather than an answer, He provides a Person, the Lord Jesus who joins us in suffering?
13. Do you think humanity is part of the same family? Do you think we're in a pit of our own making? Do you think we can climb out of the pit, and fix the problems of the world, on our own?
14. Do you think Jesus is life, and to reject Him is to choose death? Do you believe He is love, and to reject Him is to continue our estrangement from God? Do you believe He is light, and to reject Him means choosing to stay in outer darkness?

