

Sermon Outline

HEADS OF STATES: A STUDY OF ROMANS 5:12-21

TYPE (ROMANS 5:14)

I. Death by Adam

- A. Why is there so much pain and disease in the world—and what is the way out?
- B. In last week's lesson in Romans 5:12-14, we focused mainly on the first question.
 - 1. Pain and disease entered the world through Adam, the first man.
 - 2. When Adam sinned, death spread to all of his natural descendants, because all of us were in Adam when he sinned.
 - 3. The reason we die is not primarily because we ourselves sin. The primary reason we die is because Adam sinned and we were condemned in him.
 - 4. It is also because we were in Adam that we were made sinners in terms of our status before God.
- C. But how did Adam come to have so much power over us? How is it possible that one man exercise such decisive power over the lives of his descendants?—the clue is in the final phrase of verse 14: Adam “was a type of the one who was to come.”

II. Adam as Type of the One to Come

- A. Paul says that Adam was “a type.”
- B. A “type” (*typos*) is basically a pattern, a model of something that is to come.
- C. A *type* is not an end in itself. It is simply a blueprint for something that is far greater and far more powerful.
 - 1. Adam is a type “of the one who was to come,” the One who is the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 2. To understand the role that Adam played, we would have to look at Christ.
 - If Adam is the type, Christ is the antitype (or Fulfilment).
 - If Adam is the blueprint, Christ is the finished structure.
 - If Adam is the model, Christ is the reality.
- D. Notice that Paul does not say that Christ is a type of Adam or that Christ is like Adam. He says that Adam is like Christ.—For Paul, Christ is always the ultimate reality. Adam is but a foreshadowing of that reality.
- E. Even if Adam was merely a type of Christ, he is still a type—and types can be very influential figures!

1. It is because Adam is a type of Christ that Adam has such decisive influence over his people.
 2. Since Adam is a type of Christ, we can reason backwards from Christ to Adam.
 - a. If Christ can reconcile his people to God, Adam can separate his people from God.
 - b. If Christ's righteousness can make his entire people righteous before God, then Adam's sin can render his entire people guilty before God.
 - c. *Because Christ has the power to define the status and destiny of his people, Adam—a lesser version of Christ, a type of Christ—is able to do something similar.*
- F. Adam held such power over his people not merely because he was the biological father of all mankind. Adam had such power precisely because of the role God had given him to play. Adam was called to be a *type* of the Christ who was to come. Adam was the very first *federal head* of the human race.

III. Adam as Federal Head

- A. While Paul does not use “federal head” to describe Adam, this term describes Adam's role toward his biological descendants.
- B. Adam is a “federal head” because...
 1. he represents his people.
 2. determines the future of his people before God by his actions.
- C. In the ancient world, the king was often the federal head of his people.
 1. Kings represented their kingdoms and were sometimes thought to embody the fates of their kingdoms.
 2. Kings were instrumental to the well-being of their kingdom.
 - “The king was mediator of the life force itself, giving fertility and virility; carrier of the power of authority, giving order and integrity; and bearer of the aggressive might of the executive function, giving chastisement to disorder and encouragement to obedience.” (John Weir Perry, *Lord of the Four Quarters*, 4).
- D. In our modern world, federal headship continues in our political governments. —When a political leader signs a treaty with another state, he is doing so on behalf of the people of Singapore. He is acting in the place of us.
- E. Since Adam was a type of Christ, and Christ is the federal head/king of his people, it follows that Adam was a federal head as well.
 1. Both Adam and Christ were literally heads of states.
 2. Both Adam and Christ are lords, representative kings, of their peoples.
 3. By their actions toward God, the supreme King of the universe, both Adam and Christ decide the fate of their peoples, both a civilizational level as well as at an individual level.

IV. Adam as Lord of an Age

- A. Since Paul holds up Adam and Christ as federal heads of the human race, we can go on to say that both Adam and Christ represent two different ages of human history.
- B. Adam the first man is the head of this present age, while Jesus Christ the second man is the head of the age that is to come.
- C. This affects how we read human history. In Romans 5, Scripture is teaching us that all of human history can be summarized under two headings—*Adam* on the one hand, and *Jesus Christ* on the other. All of the human race can be classified under these two lords—*Adam* and *Christ*.

V. Who Is Your Head?

- A. Why can I expect pain and suffering in my life? Because this world is still primarily under the rule of the first head, Adam.
- B. Which federal head you live under determines (1) your relationship to God and (2) the kind of person you yourself turn out to be.
 - 1. You and I are living under one of two great shadows.
 - 2. We are either living under Adam or we are living under Christ.
 - 3. So not only does Romans 5 show us why there is such suffering in the world. It shows us why we ourselves are the way we are.
- C. As believers in Jesus Christ, we are no longer under Adam and his sin.
 - 1. Adam is no longer the believer's head. Instead, we are under a new head, a new Lord, who is the Son of God himself, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 2. Our Lord Jesus Christ has given us his Holy Spirit, who causes us to choose God and holy realities.
 - 3. For the very first time, we long for the true God. We can do good works that God approves of.
 - 4. This is life under Christ—and Scripture teaches us that it's only going to get better. And by "better" I mean that we will arrive at the point of complete conformity to the Lord Jesus Christ, because where the Head is, the rest of the Body must follow. Every member of the Body of Christ is cherished by the Head. The Head cares for each little cell and fiber and organ of his Body. Just as a man is to love his wife as himself, the Head loves his Body as himself—and will finish the work that he has started.
- D. But until we are completely conformed to Christ, those places in our lives that are not yet fully conformed to Jesus Christ will be conformed to the old Adamic nature.
 - 1. Even though we are no longer guilty in Adam, and even though Adam is no longer our father, we still have his nature, habits, sinful desires.
 - 2. We carry these with us wherever we go. We bring a bit of old Adam with us into our relationships, into every context of life—even religious ones.

3. We will spend the rest of our Christian lives learning to drop and fight the old, ingrained Adamic habits of being and doing.

VI. Adam the Movie

- A. What baggage did we inherit from the old man? We find clues of this baggage in Adam's behavior in Genesis 3.
 1. Adam trusted the serpent more than God (Gen 3:1-6).
 2. Adam doubted the greatness of God's goodness and the goodness of God's lordship (Gen 3:4-6).
 - When you hear the doubts in your mind about God's love for you, when you think that God doesn't mean well for you, where do you think that comes from?
 - When you want to be the hero of your own life story, where do you think that comes from?
 - When you want to decide what is right and wrong based on your own terms, where do you think that comes from? It comes from the old programming you inherited from your first father.
 3. Adam and Eve hid from God after they sinned. They covered their guilt with their own sloppy attempts (Gen 3:7). We do the same when we...
 - Refuse to confess our sins and sinfulness.
 - Minimize our own sins while focusing on the sins of others.
 4. Adam started blaming his wife for his problems (Gen 3:12).
—Our natural tendency as human beings is to shift the blame, to complain, to whine, to gossip, to act high and mighty, to refuse to examine ourselves, and take responsibility for our own sins.
- B. Self-awareness is a good thing.
—When you feel the desire to blame others for your sins, or make others suffer for your sins and problems, recognize where that comes from. It is not from the nature of Christ. It's from the old nature of Adam.
- C. Are we beginning to see how much Adam's being a type of Christ shapes our lives—even in ways we don't even fully understand as yet?
 1. The entire world, insofar as it is outside of Christ, is the story of Adam played and replayed like a bad movie or television drama.
 2. The characters may be different. The language may be different. The particular storyline may be different. But it's the same (big) story!

VII. New Story, New Way, New Life

- A. The one who is under Adam has no choice but to watch the movie and act it out over and over again.

1. The child of Adam can do all kinds of wonderful things. He can create all sorts of wonderful cultural products from skyscrapers to internet banking to exotic vacation getaways.
 2. But that's the thing: He can *only* make choices according to his Adamic interests. Beneath all the seemingly virtuous deeds is the old Adamic fear, the old Adamic anger, and rebellion, and running from God.
- B. The one who is in Christ is different.
1. While we still struggle with our old father issues, we are learning to walk according to our new culture, the culture of Christ.
 2. Too often, we still act out according to Adam—and don't even know it. But we can choose more and more not to act out of Adam but out of Christ.
 - Instead of listening to the serpent, we can listen to God.
 - Instead of believing the skepticism of the world, we can trust the goodness of God.
 - Instead of following the rebellion of the world, we can rejoice in the lordship of God (cf. Ps 97:1).
 - Instead of hiding our sins, we can repent, confess, and start anew.
 - Instead of cutting others down to make ourselves look better, we can trust Jesus Christ to take our sins away and cancel them on his cross.
- C. The road of Adam is destined for hell. Christ is the way to the new world.
1. In this new world that has already begun, we will no longer be ruled by the fear and anxiety of the old man.
 2. Rather, we will be governed by the fruit of the Spirit, "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal 5:22-23).
 - a. Our Lord Jesus is the good King. He is the King of light. He is the King of love.
 - b. When we move in the direction of love, joy, kindness, and gentleness, we are moving toward him.

If you are in Adam, there is good news for you. The immigration lines at the embassy of the new creation are open (cf. 2 Cor 5:17). Come. The good King is calling you. Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. He will forgive all your sins. He will clothe you in his righteousness. He will love you as his own forever. He will never let you go. He will never leave you. He will never count your sins against you ever again. You are a new human being. If you are already in Christ, then remember who you are. You are not in Adam anymore. You are in Christ. So live accordingly.

Questions for Reflection

1. Was there anything in particular about today's sermon that blessed and encouraged you?
2. Was there anything that you disagree with or found difficult to accept?
3. How did Adam come to have such power over his natural descendants?
4. What does it mean for Adam to be a "type of the one who was to come"?
5. What does it mean for Adam to be a "federal head"?
6. "Both Adam and Christ were literally heads of states. Both Adam and Christ are lords, representative kings, of their peoples. By their actions toward God, the supreme King of the universe, both Adam and Christ decide the fate of their peoples, both a civilizational level as well as at an individual level." Discuss.
7. "Adam the first man is the head of this present age, while Jesus Christ the second man is the head of the age that is to come." Discuss.
8. What is the "baggage" we inherited from Adam? Based on Adam's conduct in Genesis 3, how does it look like? Where are you still showing old Adamic behavior?
9. What is the new story the Christian must live by? What is the new life like in contrast to the old?