

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Two

Adam and Christ Witness of Federal Headship

Two are often paired together as a witness to testify unto us basic bible doctrines. In Romans chapter 5 we have such a pairing: Rom. 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: 13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. 16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. 17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

In verse 14 above we are told that Adam was the figure of him that was to come, which is Christ. Both Adam and Christ are "federal heads." Federal headship means that the head is the sole representative of those that he represents. The consequences of the actions of the federal head affect all that the federal head represents. There are two groupings of people represented by Adam and Christ: 1 Cor. 15:22 "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." It is an erroneous assumption to assume that both Adam and Christ represented all the human race. Adam represented those that are "in Adam." Christ represented those that are "in Christ." "In" is often a positional word showing the location of those positioned.

Adam represented the entire human race that was seminally positioned in him when he represented them in the Garden of Eden. Christ represented the covenant elect of God (Rom. 8:29) that were "chosen in him before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4).

When Adam was in the Garden of Eden he represented all the human race seminally positioned in him. As their federal head, his actions not only effected him, but also they effected equally all that he represented. When Adam transgressed the law of God in the Garden of Eden, he brought death and condemnation upon the entire human race, seminally positioned in him. As the scripture reads, " Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned," so by the sin of Adam sin entered into all mankind and death passed upon all mankind in that all sinned in Adam.

Further consequences upon mankind due to Adams transgression are set forth in the above passage of scripture:

1. Through the one sin of Adam death passed upon all mankind.
2. Through the one sin of Adam condemnation came upon all mankind.
3. Through the one sin of Adam death reigns upon all mankind.
4. Through the one sin of Adam all of mankind were made sinners.

None of those represented by Adam had any say in what Adam did nor did they have any choice in the consequences of Adam's action. The headship of Adam was binding upon them.

Similarly, when Christ lived upon the earth and when he died upon the cross he represented all the elect as their federal head. Christ represented all the elect that were in him by covenant. As the federal head of the elect his actions in keeping perfectly the law and subsequent sacrificial atonement upon the cross to satisfy God's divine justice equally affected all that he represented.

The consequences upon the elect due to Christ's righteousness and sacrificial atonement are set forth in the above passage of scripture:

1. Christ's actions justified all the elect.
2. Christ's actions brought forth a reign of righteousness in the lives of all the elect.
3. Christ's actions made all the elect righteous before God.
4. Christ's actions brought forth eternal life to all the elect.

None of those represented by Christ had any say in what Christ did nor did they have any choice in the consequences of Christ's action. The headship of Christ was binding upon them. I certainly have no objection to that.

Next: Cain and Abel

