

**Our Horrible Connection  
to Adam** ☹️

**Our Wonderful Connection  
to Jesus** 😊

Saturday, 2/29 at 4:00 ✦ Sunday, 3/1 at 9:00

First Sunday in Lent – 2020

**Lenten Wednesdays: Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6**

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Family connections are *sometimes GOOD* and *sometimes BAD*. Think about your own extended family...

- ⇒ What if someone was star pro athlete? You could claim a legitimate connection and maybe even get free tickets! *That connection would be GOOD!* However...
- ⇒ What if someone was a mass-murderer? Would you try to hide the connection and maybe even deny the connection! *That connection would be BAD!*

In this sermon we will consider two of our actual connections; one is *much worse than bad*, one is *much better than good!*

At the beginning of today's epistle text, God is using Paul to take us back to everyone's oldest relative – *whose name is Adam* – and point out **THE HORROR OF OUR CONNECTION!**

1. **Sin and Death:** <sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned--  
<sup>13</sup> for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.  
<sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type [an example] of the one who was to come.
- What was true of Adam and Eve? (1) *They were IMMORTAL* – so they could NOT physically die! (2) *They were spiritually alive* – so they were in a good relationship with God!
  - How did Adam and Eve become MORTAL? *By diving into sin!* God said, regarding that one particular tree, “...in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Gen. 2:17 ESV). So on the day they ate, they ♦*immediately died spiritually* and ♦*would eventually die physically*.
  - Why did the sin of Adam spread to all people? *Because everyone is related to Adam!* The ♦*reality* and ♦*consequences* of his sin were passed on, *one person at a time*, to everyone!
  - How do we know that sin has been passed on to everyone? *Because everyone dies!*
  - Which sin brought death? *NOT our sin, but Adam’s first sin!* How do we know? Between *the first sin* and *God giving His Law through Moses*, there were 2,600 years. During that time those people didn’t break a particular God-given law, *yet they still died!* Why? *Because they*

*inherited sin and death through Adam! ALL PEOPLE – from the moment of conception – are dead spiritually and will eventually die physically.*

f. Summary: Because Adam dove into sin, every member of the human race will eventually *die* and *be separated from God forevermore!* No human being can ever reverse those horrible consequences! Do you agree?

2. **Forgiveness and Life**: Since all humans are helpless to overcome sin and death, *God sent His Son to defeat sin and death for us!* Now, let's think about **OUR WONDERFUL CONNECTION TO JESUS!** <sup>15</sup> **But the free gift [of forgiveness] is not like the trespass.**

a. Grace: **For if many<sup>1</sup> died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.** // Think about it... *Adam's sin brought death to everyone – HORRIBLE; but we have God's love (grace) and God's forgiveness (free gift) through Jesus – WONDERFUL!*

b. Free Gift: <sup>16</sup> **And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.** // Think about it... it took only one sin to condemn everyone. However, God's free gift of forgiveness is so much greater! Why? *Because it forgives the first sin of Adam AND all of our own sins as well!*

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<sup>1</sup> Synecdoche: A figure of speech in which a part is used to represent the whole.

- c. Righteousness: <sup>17</sup> **For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.** // There is an important difference between what comes through Adam and what comes through Jesus: What comes through Adam was **automatic**, *but what comes through Jesus must be received **by grace through faith!***

3. **Summary:**

- a. Two opposite actions: <sup>18</sup> **Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.** // Adam's sin brought condemnation; *Jesus' work brought salvation!*
- b. Two opposite results: <sup>19</sup> **For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.** // Jesus, the God-Man, reversed the curse; now, *through Him*, we ♦ have God's forgiveness, ♦ are right in God's sight, and ♦ are in a right relationship with God!

**This Week's Challenge:** Knowing the full force of the bad news, let us greatly rejoice in the good news!

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Father, our sins are never good, but let us know that *Adam's sin is what killed us*; however, let us also know that *Jesus' finished work has saved us!*

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