

Morning Sermon August 23, 2015  
"Who's Your Federal Head?" Romans 5:12-21

The concept of Federal Headship is not really understood today, and not understood, it is opposed. It is opposed in our popular culture, and sadly by many in the church. We count the concept, unfair, and wrong and the opposition is most often expressed in the phrase, "why should I be punished, or why should I die for Adam's sin?"

There is even some Scripture that seems to fight the idea of Federal Headship – Jeremiah 31:29-30

I. Our solidarity with Adam (our First Federal Head) resulted in his sin (guilt) being imputed to us and inherited by us –

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned--  
<sup>13</sup> (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. (Romans 5:12-14 NKJ)

1. In Adam, sin and death entered the human race, and brought to us complete disgrace –

A. See how quickly and powerfully sin brought DEATH –

The first son Cain, murdered the second son Abel – Genesis 4:8  
Before the end of Genesis 4: 23-24 Lamech; Cain's grandson, is bragging about murder! In Genesis 5, we read over and over again in the first genealogy, "and he died and he died and he died" it is like a broken record .

B. It was not long before "death" became our way, the way that seems right to a man –

<sup>12</sup> There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end is the way of death. (Proverbs 14:12 NKJ)

<sup>25</sup> There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end is the way of death. (Proverbs 16:25 NKJ) Not only is death inevitable, but man sinks to the point murder and suicide, seem right -

2. Romans 5:12 does not contradict Jeremiah 31:29-30, why? **death spread to all men, because all sinned-- (Romans 5:12 NKJ)**  
Adam's sin was imputed to us, inherited by us, infused in us like deadly sap from a corrupt family tree. The name "Adam" means mankind and his solidarity with us is such that sin and guilt is communicated to us.

When we were more a "Christian nation" Americans understood this - The New-England Primer, once used in all schools in America, started teaching the alphabet to children by teaching the letter "A" with "In ADAM'S fall we sinned all." The youngest children were taught this way, not only the alphabet but also the Federal Headship of Adam, our connection to him, our solidarity with him, ultimately the sinking of the entire human race because of him.

3. Because of the Bible, and its widespread teaching, I believe remnants of the teaching of federal headship continued in our culture unto recent years -

For instance, not that long ago, an attack from a foreign nation, coupled with a declaration of war from a leader of that nation meant we were at war with EVERY INDIVIDUAL who was part of that nation.

Now, I am not sure about the details of the change, when and how it happened, but now a "death to America" chant, from Iran, even from one of its primary leaders, is no longer considered a declaration of war on the nation as a whole. We no longer respond to words or even terrorizing actions. Yet, ancient Israel was different -

<sup>21</sup> **And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword. (Joshua 6:21 NKJ)** They, Israel did this many times, to a number of nations, and in obedience to God. This was so, even to the point, King Saul, who sparred King Agag, and a number of animals, was considered in great disobedience to God, lost the Holy Spirit, lost his position as king, was possessed with an evil spirit, ultimately killed himself in humiliating defeat, because he did not obey God and kill all, according to God's command – <sup>3</sup> `Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'" (1Samuel 15:3 NKJ)

4. *Several passages of Scripture, teach us various truths about federal headship, and headship in general –*
- A. *2 Samuel 24 shows us all Israel suffering because her federal head, king David, sinned by numbering the people.*
  - B. *Note David determined harm against Nabal 1 Samuel 25, and all his household, 1 Samuel 25:17, because of Nabal's ill treatment and disrespect shown toward David and his men. Only, kind treatment from Abigail, who goes dramatically AGAINST the actions of her wicked husband, saved the household from David's anger, though God still judged Nabal.*
  - C. *We see this kind of judgment even in the Ten Commandments –*  
<sup>4</sup> **"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; <sup>5</sup> you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, (Exodus 20:4-5 NKJ)**
5. *The action of Abigail, also of a child, who would obey God, even though his father did not, show if a person would go dramatically against wicked headship, in obedience to God, there would be salvation ... Yet, apart from Christ, none of our race went that far against the sin of Adam ---- <sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, **because all sinned--***
- II. *Our solidarity with Christ (our New Federal Head) results in His righteousness being imputed to us bringing us justification and life -*
- <sup>15</sup> **But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. <sup>17</sup> For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) <sup>18</sup> Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. <sup>19</sup> For as by one man's disobedience many were**

**made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:15-19 NKJ)**

1. *Romans 5:14 calls Adam a type of Christ - "Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come." He is best called an anti-type: Adam's offense brought sin into the world, death and condemnation, Christ's obedience brought righteousness, justification and life. What they have in common is imputation – just as Adam's sin was imputed to us by our physical birth, so Christ's righteousness is imputed to us when we are born again. Of course we do not like the imputation of Adam's sin and guilt, but we should be very happy and grateful for the imputation to us of Jesus Christ's righteousness.*
2. *How much Adam and Jesus had in common, not everything but:*
  - A. *The both had their gardens: Adam Eden, Paradise / Jesus Gethsemane – the Olive Press*
  - B. *Adam – had one tree forbidden, lest he lose all life. He chose the one forbidden tree, bringing condemnation and death. Christ had one tree He must chose, the cross, in order to gain life, in obedience, He chose that tree bring us justification and life –*  
<sup>13</sup> **Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), (Galatians 3:13 NKJ)**
  - C. *Adam brought a curse, thorns and thistle ... Christ wore the crown of thorns on His head, to take away the same curse. Genesis 3:14-17; Matthew 27:29*
3. *Christ found us where Adam left us, in the abyss of sin and death, and He lifts us out – See Psalm 69, Evening Service ---*

III. *Christ's Grace is more powerful than sin, His Life is more powerful than death –*

<sup>20</sup> **Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, <sup>21</sup> so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:20-21 NKJ)**

1. *Sin and death are powerful – Ecclesiastes 12 / Evolution, the love of death, is taught in our society as if true*
2. *Christ, grace and life are MORE POWERFUL – 1 Corinthians 15*

*Arnold A. Brevick*