

Biblical Anthropology

Handout 2

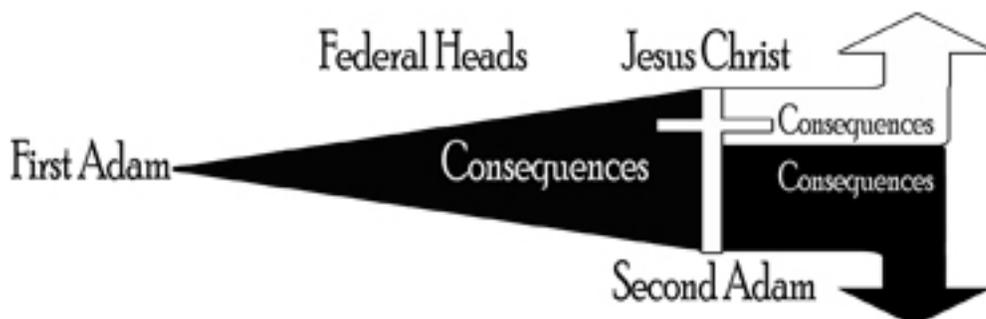
THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE FALL

- *Theological*
- *Psychological*
- *Sociological*
- *Ecological*

FEDERAL HEADSHIP

Definition: The choice of the head affects all of his descendants. Adam's choices affected all of humanity, and Jesus' choices affect all who descend spiritually from him. Because we all descend from Adam, we reap the consequences of Adam's choice.

- **Romans 5:12-19 NIV** *Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned-- (13) To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. (14) Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. (15) But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! (16) Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. (17) For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! (18) Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. (19) For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*
- **1 Corinthians 15:21-22 NIV** (21) *For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. (22) For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*



The consequences of free will

- Spiritual death - separation from God
- Physical death
- Sin nature

Other passages make it clear that we are born in a sinful state and estranged from God.

- Ps. 51:5 " . . . *in sin my mother conceived me*"
- Eph. 2:3 " . . . *by nature children of wrath*"
- Prov. 22:15 "*Foolishness is bound up in a child's heart . . .*"
- Gen. 8:21 " . . . *for man is evil from his youth up . . .*"
- Note: Granted, a sinful environment affects us, but the primary reason we sin is because we have a *sin nature*
- Isaiah 26:10 NIV *But when grace is shown to the wicked, they do not learn righteousness; even in a land of uprightness they go on doing evil and do not regard the majesty of the LORD.*
- Mark 7:18-23 *And He said to them, "Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him; because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?" (Thus He declared all foods clean.) And He was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornication's, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. "All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."*

Objection: "It's not fair. Why should I have to suffer the consequences of someone else's wrong decision?"

Qualification: God will not hold you responsible on judgment day for sins that Adam committed. The guilt of Adam's actions is not attributed to us. Nevertheless, we are still affected by his decision.

- Ezekiel 18:20 NIV *The one who sins is the one who will die. The child will not share the guilt of the parent, nor will the parent share the guilt of the child. The righteousness of the righteous will be credited to them, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against them.*

With free will, our choices affect others. It is the nature of reality and an essential aspect of free will that our choices have a real impact on the external world. "Why couldn't God have given humans free will, but make sure we chose properly--or made sure there were no negative consequences for our choices?" This is the same thing as wishing God didn't give us free will! The consequences include negative impact on others--even if they don't agree with the choice, even if they have no voice in it, even if they haven't been born yet.

We want it both ways. Although we complain about having to reap the negative consequences of someone else's wrong choices, we don't mind reaping the positive consequences of someone's wise choices. We also like having free will most of the time--until we have to reap negative consequences. We can't have it both ways!

In Christ federal headship operates to our benefit. Although receiving Adam's spiritual state leads to a way of life apart from God, this principle can work in a positive direction as well . . . see briefly Rom. 5:14-19. Just as we inherit Adam's consequences even though we don't deserve it, we can also inherit Jesus' (another Federal Head) consequences even though we don't deserve it! While we do not have a choice about inheriting the negative consequences of Adam's disobedience, we all have a choice about inheriting the positive consequences of Jesus' obedience (Rom 5:17: "those who receive").

We have a choice. We CANNOT CHOOSE to NOT be a descendant of Adam. But we CAN CHOOSE to be a descendant of Jesus Christ by receiving him.

- John 1:12 NIV *Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--*