

Are You In Adam or In Christ? 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

Introduction:

1. If Christ did not rise from the dead, then this means He was simply a man like every other man. It means He was basically an irrational, religious charlatan that cannot be trusted in any way.
2. Jesus prophesied that He would rise from the dead. **John 2:19; Matthew 27:63; Mark 8:31; Luke 18:33**
 - If Christ did not rise from the dead, bottom line - he was a liar.
3. But Paul declares in verse 20, "*But now is Christ risen from the dead...*" Christ's resurrection from the dead proves that His words were in fact spirit and life.
John 6:63
4. Peter told Jesus, "*...thou hast the words of eternal life.*" **John 6:68**
 - Christ's resurrection demonstrates that this is true. You can have complete confidence in Christ because He **is** life, as proven by His resurrection.
John 5:26
5. Think about this - every religion claims to have a leader or leaders that have spoken words that are true and that are from God. There is one major difference between Christ and all the others. Their bodies have rotted in the ground somewhere. Christ's tomb is empty! He showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs.
Acts 1:3
 - This fact lets you know that Christ is the One who speaks words you can trust. When doubts creep into our minds about God's Word, and heaven, and hell, and eternal things, we can always go back to an empty tomb and get reassurance that it is all true.
 - Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius, Joseph Smith, Charles Taze Russell, and all the rest do not have words of life. How do we know? They are all dead in the grave and have been for years.
6. Because of Christ's resurrection, He is the only place you can go to find life. If you are not in Christ, you do not have life. You are abiding in death.
7. Paul says it this way, "*In Adam all die...in Christ shall all be made alive.*" All of humanity can be broken down into two groups. You are either in the family of Adam or you are in the family of Christ. Let's examine what this means:

In Adam all die.

1. When Adam chose to sin and disobey God in the Garden of Eden, there were consequences. God cannot fellowship with sin; therefore "*the wages of sin is death.*"
 - If God cannot fellowship with sin and God is life, then it stands to reason that the only possible wages for sin is death.
2. Adam died spiritually that day in the Garden. He was now dead to God. He was separated, cut off, and alienated from the life of God. **Ephesians 2:1, 12; 4:18**
3. Not only this, because of his "cut off" position from the life of God, his body would now become a body of death (**Romans 7:24**). His body would begin a deterioration process resulting in the eventual death of his **physical** body.

4. Adam was the head of the human race. He could only give to his posterity what he had - death! vs. 21; **Romans 5:12**
 - Adam passed death on to **all** men.
 - Do you know how you know that every person is a sinner? Because 100% of the population dies. vs. 22
5. All those in Adam's family die. Read Genesis 5 and notice the last thing said about every person in the generations of Adam. What happens? They die. All of Adam's descendants die. Death reigns in Adam's family. To be **in Adam** is to be in death.
 - When a person dies physically this is the **first** death. But his soul and spirit (their inner man) also has a death to die. God calls this the second death.
Revelation 20:14-15, 21:8
6. A person's only hope is to somehow get **out** of Adam's family. If you stay in Adam's family, death will sink its teeth into you and swallow you up eternally.

In Christ all are made alive.

1. In order to have an answer to death, man had to produce it (vs. 21). This is why Christ took on Him the nature of man. **Hebrews 2:14-16; 1 Timothy 2:5**
 - "*By man came death*" - union and oneness with the first man (Adam) produces death.
 - "*By man came also the resurrection of the dead*" - Union with the last Adam (Jesus Christ) brings life.
2. Remember in Genesis 5 when we saw the book of the generations of Adam? Over and over it said about every person, "*...and he died.*"
3. Compare this with Matthew 1 which is the book of the generation of Jesus Christ.
 - Over and over we see the word "*begat.*" This is different than being born. Being born takes place nine months after being begotten. This is a reference to the conception and the creation of a new life that grows in the womb of its mother and then is delivered into the world.
 - Isn't it interesting that in this chapter you never see anybody dying, but rather the emphasis is the giving of life? Everybody lives and gets life.
4. In Adam all die, in Christ all are made alive! This tells me which family I want to be in. To be **in Adam** is to be in **death**; to be **in Christ** is to be in **life**. **John 1:4, 11:25, 14:6** Christ has life in Himself. **John 5:26**
 - This is why the Bible says that it was not possible that Christ should held by death (**Acts 2:24**). Christ is life; therefore death could not retain Him and hold him down. It would have been impossible. How can death hold somebody who **is** the resurrection and the life?
5. In Adam all die, both physically and spiritually. Christ went to Calvary and died both of these deaths for us.
 - He died our second death when His soul was made an offering for sin.
 - He died our first death when He cried "*It is finished*" and gave up the ghost physically.
6. He did this so that we could be taken out of Adam with his sin and death and placed into oneness with Christ. When you are placed in Christ, His death payment becomes yours and His life becomes yours. His history becomes your history. You are in Him!

7. You got into Adam's family by simply being born, but you get into Christ's family by faith alone in Jesus Christ. **Galatians 3:26**

In Conclusion:

1. This passage teaches us very clearly that there are two families, two issues.
2. God looks down from heaven at you and asks one question in regards to your eternal life. He doesn't ask, "What denomination are you? What is the name of the church you attend? Have you been baptized in water? Have you joined the church?"
3. No, He simply wants to know one thing - "Which family are you in? Are you in Adam's family or are you in my Son's?"
4. You can join the church, get involved, give money to the church, look, talk, and act like a Christian, and fake it all. But on Judgment Day, if you aren't in Christ, you will not be made alive.

Are you in Adam or are you in Christ?