

# Shown in Life

1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

## Introduction

So far in this 6-part series of how Christ is shown to the world to be the Son of God through the church, we have seen that this takes place through spiritual gifts, unity, love, maturity, and hope. Today, we see how Christ is shown to be the Son of God through the life of the church.

## It's Not Fair

*For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive (1 Corinthians 15:22).* This goes against everything the world considers right and just. People should be punished for their own crimes. It's not right for someone to be punished for someone else's crime. By the world's standards, bad people would die, and good people would live. Second, what is that one crime for which we're all punished? Eating some fruit? It's not like Adam committed adultery or murdered someone. And third, it just doesn't seem right for someone to do all the work while others get rewarded for it.

## God's Way, Not the World's

First, just because something doesn't seem like it fits in with our way of thinking about things doesn't mean it's messed up (Read *Isaiah 55:8-9*). God is infinite and we are finite. How can we expect to understand His ways? He is holy, we are sinful. His ways are higher than our ways. When it's in Scripture, we believe it, whether we understand it or not. We believe it because it's true.

## The Nature of the Sin

The second objection raised is that this sin is too small to warrant such a violent reaction. This sin wasn't just "eating a piece of fruit." This was the grossest (gross meaning "big") sin ever. Adam and Eve wanted to know right from wrong so they would be like God (*Genesis 3:5*). They were trying to put themselves in place of God. They had already determined they knew better than He did, by ignoring His command and deciding to listen to the devil speaking through the serpent. It's that sin of displacing God that leads to the breaking of all the commandments. Since we are all born with that attitude and bent, we all deserve to die.

## Grace

The third objection, that we should earn our own rewards, is answered by God's grace. If we had to earn forgiveness of sins and eternal life, how would we know when we've been "good enough?" But the fact is, we can never be good enough. We can't pay enough, pray enough, or say enough. There is no deed we can do to pay the price for our sin. If Christ hadn't paid it all on the cross, we'd be lost, dead in our sin. Salvation is a gift of grace because we can't get it any other way. We receive salvation to the glory of God. What glory would there be for Him if we contributed to our salvation?

## All in Adam

Then there's that word "all." Think about it in these terms: If we said, "All people go into that house through this particular door," that doesn't mean everyone in the world goes into that house, but everyone who goes into that house goes in through this door. To say, *In Adam all die* (v. 22) means that only everyone who is in the line of Adam dies. This would be all members of the human race.

## All in Christ

To say, *In Christ shall all be made alive* (v. 22) means that those who are **in** Christ are made alive. We are in Christ by faith. Faith is also a gift of grace. God gives us the faith to believe in His Son for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Give all glory to God.

## Experiencing that Life Now

But it's not just a hope for the future, like we talked about last week. We are already experiencing that life now. As Luther says: "We have received a taste of this in our hearts through Christ, and that we, praise be to God, have arrived at the point where the enemy has practically no more teeth and where he has lost his sword." We experience the victory in Christ when we live in the Spirit, no matter what the world throws at us.

## Life in the Sacraments

We receive this life in Word and Sacrament. When we receive the body and blood of Christ, He gives us forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. It's not just the future eternal life, but a life that we live now for Him. When we live this life we have in Christ, we show the world that He is the Son of God.

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*And the peace of God,  
Which surpasses all understanding,  
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

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