

No Salvation Without Representation

Romans 5:12, 18-19

Representation means “*to act or stand in the place of.*” Our political structure in this great country is built on representation. We elect people to “*act or stand in the place of us in Washington*” (we call it “The House of Representatives”). A cardinal doctrine is that God relates to man on the basis of two representatives. The first Adam gives death to those he represents. The second Adam (Christ) gives life to those He represents (see I Cor.15:45-49).

I. We are condemned by the actions of our *first* representative (Adam).

This is the teaching of v.12. God placed Adam in the garden as the representative of mankind. If Adam chooses obedience, he and his posterity live. If Adam chooses sin, he and his posterity die. Adam’s choice was my choice. Adam’s sin became my sin. “*When Adam sinned, we were all constituted, classified, and condemned as sinners.*”

(A). Objections to this doctrine are numerous.

(1). I don’t like representation!

Response: You do too! You use representation all the time. You use people with skill and knowledge to represent you in medicine, the courtroom, in politics, and sports. *You like representation when it works!*

(2). I don’t like God’s choice of Adam as my representative!

Response: Do you think you could have done better? God is not like King George III. When the colonies cried, “*No taxation without representation*” the king gave them his brother as their representative. God has given us the absolute best. “*This only have I found, God made man upright*” (Ec. 7:29).

(3). I don’t like the punishment (death) for the sin of my representative!

Response: Punishment must fit the crime. Sin against God demands death. In the day Adam sinned, he died (spiritually) and began dying (physically).

(B). Objections to this doctrine are perilous.

“*To teach that we are condemned for our inherent depravity, to the exclusion of Adam’s sin, necessitates that we are justified for our inherent goodness, to the exclusion of Christ, which destroys all hope of heaven.*” **Charles Hodge.**

II. We are justified by the actions of our *second* representative (Jesus Christ).

This is the teaching of vs.18-19. God sent a second representative to justify sinners. The first Adam chose sin unto death; the second Adam chose obedience unto life.

(A). This is why the virgin birth is such an important doctrine --- Adam was the representative of man, not Eve, and thus death was not “*passed*” unto Christ.

(B). This is why the death of Jesus Christ is considered vicarious --- He died as a substitute for those He represented. Whom did Christ represent? (Jn. 6:37-40). “*If ‘all men’ means ‘every human being without exception’ then everyone shall be justified* (universalism). *But the Scriptures explicitly teach that not every person is saved.* ‘All men’ refers to ‘all those represented.’ On account of the offense of Adam, sentence of death was pronounced upon all whom he represented. On account of the righteousness of Jesus Christ, sentence of justification unto life was pronounced in favor of all whom He represented” **Robert Haldane.** Who is your representative before God?