

"No Man is an Island!"

What if just one single man had made this speech: "For a time I couldn't grasp the work of Jesus Christ. All of you on the Sanhedrin have shared my misunderstanding. Something has been happening among us that is totally supernatural. I have studied the Scriptures lately and from what I have seen beneath His lowly outward guise, Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the true Messiah. His character and mission hasn't fit our preconceived ideas, but He fulfils all the prophetic details. As leader of the faithful I now humbly acknowledge Him as the Saviour of the World. Stepping down from my position I install Him as Israel's True High Priest."

Imagine the air of surprise that would have electrified the Sanhedrin chamber if Caiaphas had said these words back in AD 31. He would have done what Abraham and Moses deeply desired to do (John 8:56; Hebrews 11:26). Today he would be honoured the world over as the most courageous leader of God's people in all history. If Caiaphas made that speech, there may have been no apostate church (1 Thessalonians 2:1-12) and no dark ages (Revelation 11:1-14)! "It's a Wonderful Life" déjà vu!

In our western society, individualism and personal rights have virtually made us millions of isolated islands. We have the false notion, that our personal choices and decisions do not necessarily affect anyone else. We think that we have the right and freedom to read, think, speak, paint, post, and print whatever we want to regardless of the costs to others.

The modern mindset says: "If it feels good, then do it, life has no absolutes!" "If it tastes good, then eat it, you deserve it." "If it looks good, take it, don't deny yourself anything!" "Me, myself, and I" is the all-consuming focus of today.

But the Bible takes a totally different view of our relationship with, and impact on each and every other human being. The Bible views humanity as a unit, a corporate body (Romans 5:6-21; 8:18-24; 1

Corinthians 12:12-27). The name "Adam" means mankind and all of God's creation is meant to harmoniously function as a whole. Each part is dependent upon the whole for growth (Hebrews 7:9; Romans 9:12; Genesis 25:23).

Modern, independent paradigms would like us to believe that my actions don't affect you. But according to Christ's philosophy, the human race is one unit and my "illness" affects each one of you! As we saw earlier (The MR News, April 2, 2000) God did not create zits. Adam's poor choice brought on sin, disease, and death to all humanity. We suffer the consequences, but not the guilt of his one act because all humanity was in him.

Last week (The MR News, April 9, 2000) we plainly realized that God's law will not allow the transfer of guilt and punishment from a guilty person to an innocent person. So how could Christ ethically rescue humanity from Adam's ugly mess?

The Incarnation is the re-beginning. When God Almighty was conceived and born, God the Father "made" every atheist, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Muslim; He made every human being in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21). This biblically and ethically qualified Christ to be the Saviour of all mankind. Then with every human "in Him" (Ephesians 1:4) all people lived a loving life in Him (1 Corinthians 1:30), were crucified with Him on the Cross (2 Corinthians 5:14, Colossians 3:3), rested on God's Sabbath in Him (Luke 23:54-56; Hebrews 4:1-13), and conquered death with Him at the resurrection (Ephesians 2:6)!

In fact, when you read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, you are reading of your brand new history in Jesus Christ! Believe It! It's True!

So then why will some people end up in hell and others in heaven if Christ did it all for all mankind? Why do some "Christians" live like the devil? Good Questions! We will discuss those queries next week.