

# Is Christianity the only way to God?

What is the nature of  
the human problem?

Why do we die?



Carl Jung



"Through pride we are ever deceiving ourselves. But deep down below the surface of the average conscience a still, small voice says to us, 'Something is out of tune'."

## What is the nature of the human problem?

1. The problem is "external."

- Environmental
- Educational
- Economic

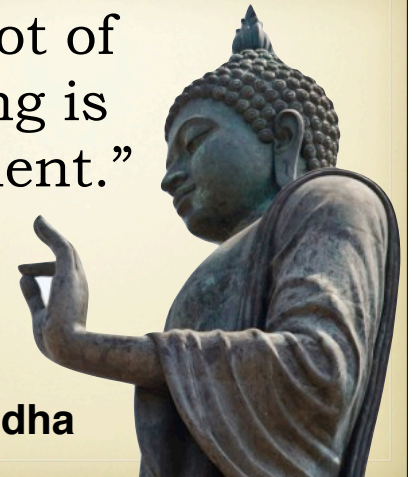
2. The problem is "internal."

- irrationalism
- Inhibitions
- Illusions



"The root of  
suffering is  
attachment."

The Buddha



## Spiritual development

### Know yourself

What does it mean to be human?

### Accept yourself

What does it mean to be forgiven?

### Forget yourself

What does it mean to be baptized?

### Give yourself

What does it mean to be a disciple?

## Death is alienation from self, others, the cosmos, & God

Consider:

1. The fear of death is our basic motivator.
2. Death is a mystery.
3. Death helps us define life.
4. Death is God's visual aid for the Gospel.

Death is the absence of life.

**Sensual**  
Separation  
from body

**Social**  
Alienation  
from others

**Spiritual**  
Alienation  
from God

Hell is the second (ultimate) death.



### Romans 5

“<sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. <sup>11</sup> And not only this, but **we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ**, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”

## 12 Therefore,

- What follows is linked to the work of Christ as a reconciler of man to God.
- This will be key to what comes in ch.6.

### Romans 5

#### Imputation of Adam's sin to all mankind

“<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one man (**Adam**) sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all (**both Jew & Gentile**) men, because all sinned (**by their union with Adam**) – <sup>13</sup> for until the Law (**Mosaic covenant**) sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed (**counted**) when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type (**image**) of Him (**Jesus**) who was to come.”

*Even though many people did not violate a revealed law (as Adam did), nevertheless they died indicating that they shared the condemnation of Adam as their “federal head.”*

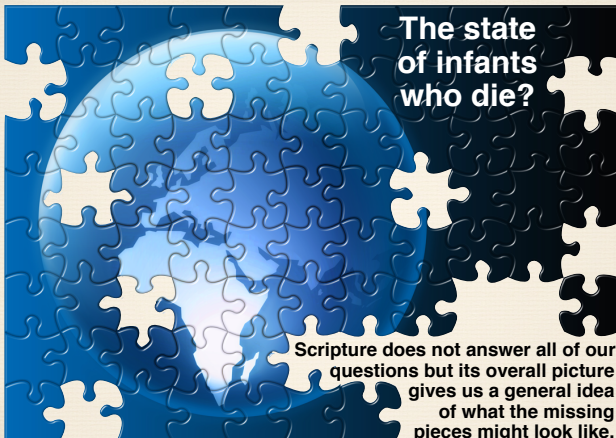
### What was Adam's sin?

- ✓ **“Independence” from God.**
  - Defining reality and making decisions as though God did not exist or did not matter.
  - Worshiping and serving the creation rather than the Creator.
  - Suppressing the knowledge of God.
- ✓ **“Death” in its various forms - absence of life.**

#### How are we tied to Adam's sin? (Original Sin)

- ✓ **“Federal headship”** - One person (emperor, president, father, etc.) represents a larger community of people who share the consequences of the one person's decisions even though they did not share in the decisions made by the one.  
Note: We all notarize Adam's choices as soon as we are able.
- ✓ **“Imputed sin”** - The sin of Adam goes on our record even though we did not commit it with him.
- ✓ **Infants (and others) who die before understanding right and wrong** - are guilty (they die) but we speculate that by the grace of God they are imputed with righteousness without expressing personal, conscious, faith.

### The state of infants who die?



Scripture does not answer all of our questions but its overall picture gives us a general idea of what the missing pieces might look like.

#### Three expressions of sin

Imputed sin	Inherited sin	Individual sin
from Adam	from parents	from volition
We are united with and in Adam, sharing his guilt and shame.	We are sinners by nature before we actually do anything wrong.	We make choices that reflect our fallen nature.
Original sin	Old sin nature	Acts of sin
“death”	“shame”	“guilt”

1. We are united with Adam in his spiritual rebellion.
2. We have a natural impulse toward active or passive rebellion against God.
3. We too often yield to that impulse.



### Was Adam an historical person?

- Scripture treats Adam as an historical person.
- The more important issues are:
  1. What does Adam show us about humanity?
  2. What does Adam teach us about Christ?

Adam is a prototype of humanity.	Adam is a type of Christ.
"the first Adam"	"the last Adam"
<sup>18</sup> So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men,	even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.
"Imputed sin"	"Imputed life"

### In what sense did Adam die?

Consider:

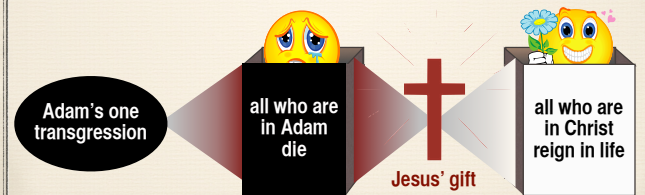
1. He did not die physically "on the day" that he sinned.
2. The new birth is spiritual not physical.
3. Animals died before Adam's fall.

### Imputation of many sins to one man – Jesus

"<sup>15</sup> But the free gift (**justification**) is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. <sup>17</sup> For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ."

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### Imputation of Jesus' righteousness to all who believe

"<sup>18</sup> So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. <sup>19</sup> For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous."

*1 Corinthians 15*

"<sup>21</sup> For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> **For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.**"

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**All who are  
in Adam die.**

**All who are in Christ  
are made alive.**



### **Imputation of Jesus' righteousness to all who believe**

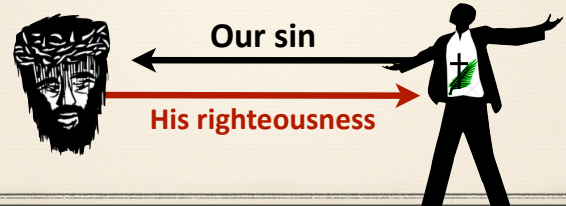
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*2 Corinthians 5:21*

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

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### **The Gospel story includes three great imputations.**



"20 And the Law came in that the transgression might increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

- ✓ **The reign of grace** - in Christ to the glory of God is a major theme in the Kingdom of God.
- ✓ **Imputed original sin** - sets the stage for the dramatic revelation of God's grace in Christ.
- ✓ **The Law of Moses** - magnifies sin with the effect that the grace of God abounds.
- ✓ **We exult with worship & obedience** - in response to this revelation.

### **Lessons**

- **Death** is God's great visual aid - the hunger for and fear of losing life.
- The root of the human dilemma is **alienation** from God making Jesus the unique Savior of the world.
- The Gospel is about three **imputations**.
- Our **identity** is key to our discipleship.
- Our **choices** are an expression of our identity.



**C.S. Lewis**

"Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."