**The Last Adam**

*1 Corinthians 15:45*

**Introduction**

1. Christ is given many names and descriptions in the Bible to help our understanding of Him, and His relationship to us.
2. Several times, those names and descriptions pertain to Christ in relation to another – type/antitype, shadow/figure – EX: Isaac, Moses, Jonah, etc.
3. **1 Corinthians 15:45** indicates a relation between Adam and Christ which is essential to our understanding of the life that is to come.
4. A Life-Giving Spirit (**cf. 1 Corinthians 15**)
5. There is No Resurrection? (**v. 12**)
   1. **Problem in Corinth** – claim that there is no resurrection (**v. 12**).
   2. Possibly influence of those who were Sadducees – ***“who say there is no resurrection” (Matthew 22:23).***
   3. **Inconsistency:**
      1. **(v. 12)** – Christ preached as being raised. (They believe this, but not in the UNIVERSAL RES.)
      2. **(vv. 1-4)** – Christ died, buried, raised – believed in vain?
      3. **NOTE: vv. 5-8,** many witnesses 🡪 **v. 11** – so you believed what was preached.
      4. **(v. 13)** – both stand together – Christ’s res, and universal res.
      5. **(v. 20)** – Christ is the first of many – i.e. all men.
      6. ***Why is there a universal res? 🡪***
6. The Need for a Resurrection **(vv. 20-28**)
   1. **By man came death (vv. 20-23):**
      1. ***“Fallen asleep”*** – euphemism for death.
      2. ***“by man” – “Adam***” – came death (context – physical):
         1. Access to tree of life cut off after sin – ***“And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” (Genesis 3:22)***.
         2. Nature of body inhabited – ***“corruptible;” “mortal”***
      3. ***“all shall be made alive”*** in Christ:
         1. Christ’s – but, not God of dead, but living.
         2. Must be raised.
   2. **Christ must conquer all (vv. 24-28 – as a matter of God’s eternal will):**
      1. ***“Till I make all enemies Your footstool” (Acts 2:35***).
         1. Not true yet – “till”
         2. Death is an enemy that must be defeated – as long as people still die, this is not accomplished.
      2. **Hebrews 2:14-15** – released from bondage of fear of death, but not death itself until the resurrection. (Because Jesus conquered death, and all will follow.)
   3. **Additional to context – there is a need for a body:**
      1. **Ecclesiastes 12:6-7** – death is separation of body and spirit.
      2. However, it is God’s design that all possess a body to His service:
         1. **1 Corinthians 6:13-14** – body is for the Lord.
         2. **Romans 6:13** – used as instrument of righteousness toward His service.
      3. **Purpose of life – to the glory of God – even in eternity – a body required toward that end by God’s design.**
7. The Nature of the Resurrection **(vv. 35-49)**
   1. **(vv. 35-38)** – analogy with crops:
      1. Sow seed – dies – becomes a plant. (**cf. John 12:24** – Jesus considering the importance of His death)
      2. (**v. 38**) – God determines the body type – NOTE: not limited – ***“You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God” (Matthew 22:29 – not raised to the same nature).***
   2. **(vv. 39-41)** – Examples of different bodies, with different glories (beauty).
   3. **(vv. 42-45)** – Resurrection body differs from present body (SPIRITUAL, and better):
      1. (**v. 45**) – Adam as a type of Christ, the Last Adam:
         1. **Cf. Genesis 2:7** – what Paul quoted (added “first,” and “Adam” to draw his parallel)
         2. NOT the “image of God” facet of man being emphasized – comparison, ***“Natural body…and spiritual body…and so it is written.”***
            1. ***“living being”*** – refers to the animation fo the physical body.
            2. Same Hebrew words – **cf. Genesis 1:24** – ***“living creature”***
            3. ***“breath of life”*** – **cf. Genesis 6:17** – not just man, but animals.
         3. ***“life-giving spirit”*** – description of the spiritual body.
      2. **Adam** = first man – all who follow in mankind receive body like him.
      3. **Last Adam** = firstfruits of resurrected body – all who follow in resurrection receive the same.
   4. **(vv. 46-49)** – must go through physical body first.
      1. This is God’s appointment for us.
      2. ***“if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together” (Romans 8:17).***
8. The Need for a Spiritual Body **(vv. 50-57)**
   1. Cannot inherit heaven without it.
   2. Death must finally be swallowed up in victory – given a body that is immortal, the mortality rate becomes 0.
9. The Universal Nature of the Resurrection (**cf. Acts 24:15** – just and unjust; **John 5:28-29** – all, life, condemnation)
10. The Offense and Free Gift (**cf. Romans 5:12-21**)
11. Relationship between Adam and Christ in regard to the body, physical death, and bodily resurrection, but also in regard to spiritual life and death – sin, and fellowship with God.
12. Death Reigns Through Adam
    1. **Reign** – **(vv. 14, 17, 21)** – “’ingressive,’ stressing the point of entrance” (Vine).
    2. **Spiritual death reigns through Adam in the sense that he was the first of such a decision to disobey God, and the consequences of that follow for those who choose the same:**
       1. **(v. 12)** – ***“because all sinned”***
       2. **(vv. 13-14)** – may not sin in exact way as Adam, but break God’s law and follow suit in such.
       3. **(v. 18a)** – judgment came to all and condemned (as all follow His example).
       4. **(v. 19a)** – his disobedience many made sinners (first occasion, and those who follow become the same – by choice).
13. Life Will Reign Through Christ
    1. **(v. 14)** – Adam a type of Christ.
       1. **Cf. 1 Peter 3:21** – baptism type of Noah being save through water.
          1. Noah and family lifted above the water and destruction, thus saved by water.
          2. We are buried in baptism.
          3. **Type/antitype – the mark of a stroke or blow; impression.**
       2. **Adam disobeyed and died, introducing sin and death into the world. Christ obeyed and was righteous, introducing an example of obedience to justification and life into the world.**
    2. **(vv. 15-17)** – Christ’s gift is greater, and more powerful than the act of Adam in disobedience and sin, and its effects.
       1. (**v. 16**) – Adam sinned once, and was condemned (same with all who followed). Christ’s death was for every sin, and every sinner. (Not just Adam.)
       2. ***“death spread to all men, because all sinned”*** – but Christ’s death is for all who have sinned, and who access it.
    3. **(vv. 12, 18-19)** – Adam introduced sin and death to the world, and all who follow that path receive the same. Jesus provided life through His act of righteousness ***(“obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” Philippians 2:8***), and those who follow His example of faithful obedience will be justified.
    4. **Cf. Romans 5:1-2** – access into grace (of Jesus’ death – free gift) by faith.

**Conclusion**

1. Christ is called “the Last Adam,” due to His unique and important relation to him.
2. Adam was the first man with a physical body, and Christ is the firstfruits of the resurrection to a spiritual body.
3. Adam introduced sin and death into the world, and Christ brought in grace, righteousness and eternal life.
4. All will shed their physical tent and be raised to incorruption to be like Christ in a spiritual body, but only those who follow Christ’s example of obedience, and accept His gift will receive eternal life.