

Life of Wellness Study 7.21.22 & 7/28/22

Legal & Vital Sides of Redemption

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When Jesus was on earth, He was ministering under the Old Covenant.
All of the human race was held captive in the First Adam.
There was no purging of the conscience from dead works, as Hebrews calls it.
There was no way to purge the sinful nature that joined the race to Adam.

It wasn't until the Work of the Cross that the human race had the opportunity to be set free from the First Adam by being born of the Second/Last Adam.

Behind the **effects** we experience of Adam's sin (Romans 5:12), there were legal contracts set in place (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15). Adam violated this legal contract.

We could call the Old Covenant the story of 'Redemption in Seed Form'-promised but not realized.

In the New Covenant we see the New Humanity, forgiven and born from the Second/Last Adam.

The word, 'covenant', shows the fact that what we can vitally experienced has a legally underpinning.

So that leads us to the two words, 'legal and vital'.

Kenyon: The Legal & Vital Aspects of Redemption

Until one becomes conscious of THE LEGAL AND VITAL ASPECTS OF REDEMPTION, there will be a haziness in his teaching and a lack of solidity in his thinking and living.

The legal side of Redemption is what God did **for us** in Christ. **It is in the past.** Romans 4:25 is a good illustration: "Who(Christ) **was** delivered up for our trespasses(guilt)(sicknesses) and **was** raised for our justification(pardon) (healing)." Here is another: I Corinthians 15:3,4: "For I delivered unto you first of all that which also I received: that 'Christ **died** for

our sins (sicknesses) according to the scriptures and that he **was** buried; and that he **hath been** raised on the third day according to the scriptures." These two scriptures perfectly illustrate what God **did** for us in **His Redemptive work.**

The vital side can be illustrated from Romans 8:1: "There is therefore **now** no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus." Colossians 1:14: "In whom we **have** our redemption, the remission of our sins." The vital is what we really have **now**; what the Holy Spirit **is** doing **in** us today.

All that is **legally** ours may become **vitaly** ours by the ministry of the Spirit through the Word in us.

You see, the Spirit has based our **present** Righteousness(healing) upon the work that had been accomplished in **His great Substitutionary Work.** Titus 2:14 is another scripture showing the **legal** side. "Who **gave** himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people for his own possession, zealous of good works." We are united with Him.

Two Phases of the Substitutionary Sacrifice

There are two phases of the revelation:

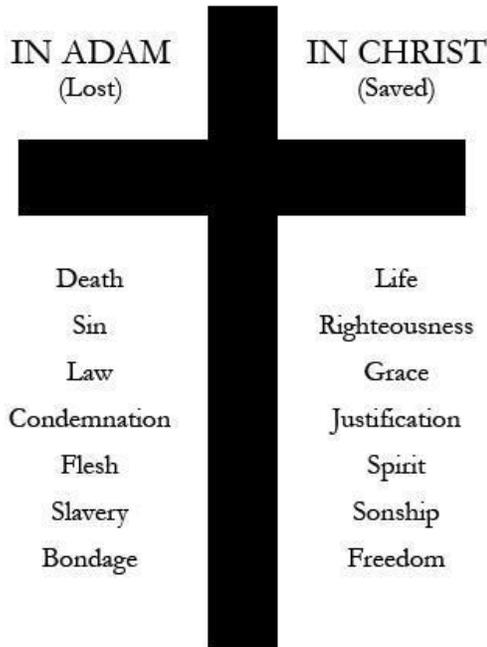
One is the Legal side of the plan of Redemption, and the other is the Vital.

The Legal is what God did in Christ for us, **what legally belongs to us** as New Creations.

The Vital is what the Spirit through the Word **is** doing in us **in** the New Creation. It **is** His indwelling, He **is** building the Father's Nature into us through the Word.

Identification: What Adam did was done to his offspring

Adam: Romans 5:18 - "Adam's one sin brings condemnation(sickness & death) for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God(healing spiritually and physically) and new life for everyone."



Adam's judgment became the judgment of every man.

There are two sides to Redemption, the **legal** and the **vital**. The **legal** is what God did for us in Christ; the **vital** is what God does **in** us in Christ.

So also there is a legal side and a vital side to the fall of man. The **legal** is what **Satan** did to us in Adam and the **vital** is what Satan does in us when by nature we are children of wrath.

Vitally, we were not in the garden with Adam; but **legally**, his death, his bondage, his judgment and all that spiritual death made him, became ours.

Now(through the work of the Cross) God has redeemed man **completely** from **every result** of Adam's treason through the **identification of the human race with His Son**. This is the message that this revelation is bringing to us in Romans 5:12-21. If the Lordship of Satan over the human was due to the identification of humanity with Adam in his crime of high treason, it is **legally** possible:

- for the works of Satan to be destroyed
- by the identification of the human race with the Son of God, the second Adam.

The Revelation that Paul received in II Corinthians 5:21 is that God actually made Him to become sin for us. He not only bore our sins (and

sicknesses), but the sin-nature itself was laid upon Him, until He became all that spiritual death had made man.

In the mind of God, it is not Christ who hung on the Cross, but it is the human race.

So each one of us may say with Paul, "I was crucified with Christ" (Galatians 2:20).

In the garden we were not with Adam vitally, but we were legally. In the same manner we were not on the Cross vitally with Christ, but we were there legally.

The identification of the human race with Christ was just as complete as was its identification with Adam.

Example of legal/vital: debit or credit card; house loan; car purchase; utility agreement

SOME "IN HIM" (Vital) FACTS

IT is very important that the believer know the difference between the **legal** side of redemption and the **vital**.

The Legal is always in the past tense. It is what **God has done for us** in Christ. **The legal begins on the cross and ends when Christ sat down at the Right Hand of the Father.**

The **vital begins with the New Birth and ends when we leave our personal habitation, the body, and go to be with the Lord.** The vital is what He is doing in me today, taking the things of Christ and building them into me.

It began when I first accepted Christ as my Saviour and confessed Him as my Lord. The Holy Spirit overshadowed me and poured into my spirit eternal life, the nature of the Father, and I became His child.

All that He did for me can be done in me; His word becomes a part of me.

He opens it up to me.

He unveils Himself in it.

He begins to build the Word into my spirit as I practice it, as I come to understand its spiritual significance, and I become Jesus like.

John 15:7 is a good illustration. "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

Now notice what that means.

"If ye abide in me." When I was born again, I came into Christ.

That is the vital aspect of divine life.

This illustrates it. "I am the vine and ye are the branches." The branch is in the vine. It is part of the vine. We are a part of the vine.

Now, "If my word abides in you."

The Word lives in me in the measure that I practice it.

My spirit feeds on the Word just as my body feeds on food.

So, as I meditate on the Word, I let it have free course in me, teaching and governing me. Then I recognize its lordship over me as I would recognize the lordship of the Master if He were here in the room.

Summary: in the mind of God the dominion given to the First Adam was a legal transaction. Adam's sin caused spiritual death to enter the world and pass to all of his offspring. God had to allow this because He had legally given Adam the dominion (control) over what was allowed in the Earth. Adam was the "Legal Head" of the human race. Legally God gave Adam dominion and vitally He gave him existence.

The penalty of Adam's sin of high treason had to be paid for legally before God could give Life vitally to us.

The soul that sins, it shall die (Ezekiel 18:20). The only thing that pays the penalty of the guilty is the shedding of blood (Leviticus 17:11).

God sent a Second Adam to offer the blood on the Cross that would legally purge our sins.

God stands justified before Satan, before mankind, before the angels. He took upon Himself the responsibility of shedding the Blood to pay the sentence of death we deserved as a human race. In the Court of Heaven when the Blood was sprinkled on the Mercy Seat by the Last Adam, the gavel came down and the debt owed to Justice was declared: "Paid in Full".

The work that Jesus did in our redemption had a Legal reason behind it. We don't normally hear about Salvation being a 'legal act'. We are brought into the vital side of it by acknowledging that we owed a 'sin debt' that we could not pay. That Jesus paid for us on the Cross. That He rose again and purchased forgiveness for us.

Knowing the "Legal" background of your 'vital' experience will give you greater 'solidity in your thinking and living'.

Applied to sickness and disease this legal foundation is so important. The Devil hates it and will constantly challenge you on vital points (what you see, hear, feel) to keep you away from legal realities (healing was LEGALLY provided at the Cross).