

2. The Two Trees.

When God created this universe, He created it from what He called “dust”. The basic chemical and physical elements – protons, neutrons and electrons – comprise the whole of this creation. Hydrogen is atomic number 1. Helium is 2. Iron is 26. Lead is 82. They are all listed in The Periodic Table.

There were only three things in the garden of Eden that were spiritual – that is, from heaven and the Spirit realm, and were not of dust. The Spirit realm is where God and the angels live. They were solid, eternal and unchanging. All else was hollow and shadow. They were: the two trees in the centre of the Garden and Adam. Even Adam’s body was made of dust. (Gen 2:7).

The Two Trees were: the TREE OF LIFE and the TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL. These two Trees were not symbolic, but real. Their fruit produced a lifestyle – how Man should live his life on earth. They were not for food. They were heavenly, and would last for ever. God commanded Adam NOT TO EAT the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

That God should provide the Tree of Life to Adam meant that God intended from the beginning to have Adam and his race live in the Spirit, and with God in heaven. Adam was a spiritual man, and his lifestyle had therefore to be spiritual. Both Trees were from the Spirit. And therefore eternal. There is no alternate lifestyle for mankind.

Adam began his life living from the Spirit, although he never tasted the fruit of the Tree of Life. That is, he listened to God and did what God suggested he should do, until he sinned.

Eve was not formed from dust. She “emerged” from Adam. Therefore, she was part of Adam, and was not a new creation.

The fruit of the forbidden tree was God’s alternative lifestyle. If Adam chose to ignore God and follow satan’s lifestyle, God insisted that there were restrictions involved. There were four “conditions” involved in eating that fruit. If Adam ate it, he would be forced to live with these four conditions:

1. All his behaviour was to begin in his brain – in his mind. It was the Tree of Knowledge. Adam would KNOW what he should do.
2. There would be GOOD thrust into his mind. The NT tells us that everything Good comes directly from God (James 1:17). So God would leave Himself access to Adam and all his descendants, by placing the right thing to do into their minds.
3. EVIL would also have access to his mind. If Adam ate the forbidden fruit, God would be duty bound to allow satan access to his people. But God would restrain all the inputs of Good and Evil, such that neither source would be obvious to mankind. Therefore the full responsibility for the performance of the individual would be theirs alone. God and satan would put in their suggestions, but the person would choose which of those inputs he would do.
4. This lifestyle God defined as “DEATH”. All who lived this kind of lifestyle would be living in death, would do deeds of death, would end in physical death, and qualify for eternal death.

Why the latter? Because God knew that He had made man from dust, and would be unable to do Good at all for the majority of his life.

And so it has turned out. There has been only One human being who was not fathered by Adam – Jesus Christ. He was fathered by God Himself. All others have Adam as their ancestor. The Bible tells us “There is none righteous, no, not one.” Therefore, every single human being that has ever lived on this earth is a dead person. Sin in the form of Self has captured us all, dominated us all, and we all only qualify for eternal separation from God and all his blessings.

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was and still is the Tree of death. Everyone who is born into it and still lives under it is a dead person. They have EXISTENCE, but not LIFE.

This means that the whole of Adam’s race is a write-off. “As in Adam all die...” (1 Cor 15:22). God has destined all of Adam’s race and all of Adam’s creation to the dustbin. This creation is a complete write-off. Every single human being on earth needs to know this. **NONE** of Adam’s race will ever get to heaven.

Jesus’ Race.

Of course, this situation was unacceptable to God. God does not build a universe to have it fail totally. His solution cost Him dearly, but it was a solution of wisdom, justice, grace and love.

God came down to earth to be a member of Adam’s race. Jesus was fathered by God, and born of Mary – one of Adam’s descendants.

First, Jesus, as God, had to solve the sin problem. There had to be justice as well as forgiveness. Forgiveness of sin had to be, from the point of view of a perfect God, FULLY just.

God’s solution came in the form of Jesus, living a perfect human life on earth for as long as it might take, and volunteering to die. A perfect and righteous sacrifice was what was needed to atone for sin. In the OT, the pattern came in the form of a lamb or a kid, or a dove. But that was unsatisfactory – it had to be a member of Adam’s race. The death that Jesus had to die had to be voluntary – to die on behalf of His chosen race – Adam’s. It had to be through death that God would destroy death. So, Jesus had to live a perfect life first, volunteer to die, and actually die.

The eternal principle is “The soul that sins shall die” (Ezek 18:4). Therefore Jesus was not able to die, because He had no sin. Therefore God had to give Him the power to lay down His life voluntarily. John 10:17-18 says: *“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”*

So, when Jesus died on the cross, He wrote off the whole of Adam’s race. Jesus was the only human being who has ever been acceptable to God. So, He was the only human being who could represent Adam’s race. Then, He died on behalf of Adam’s race. And killed it dead.

Three days later God raised Him from the dead. This was not a resuscitation. It was a new creation. Jesus was raised as a brand-new human being. He started a new race of beings. A new humanoid. He started a new dynasty.

So now we come to the question of "WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?"

A Christian is a member of Adam's race who has died to Adam's race, and all that that entails.

1. First a Christian has died to his sin. He confesses his sin and can get forgiveness for it from God. Jesus died for his sin to forgive him. The terrible barrier of sin has been wiped away by Jesus.
2. Second, he has to come into a personal relationship with Jesus. He must be born again of the Holy Spirit.
3. Third, he will eventually have to die to the whole of earth, to all his earthly ambitions, desires and longings. Like Jesus, he has to die a death to defeat death. Luke 14:33 says, *"Those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples."*

A Christian is NOT someone who has been born into a Christian home, who has belonged inside a Church, is committed to a Church or group of other Christian people.

A Christian is someone who "has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ." He is someone "in whom Jesus lives." 1 John 5:12 *"Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."*

Summary.

1. ALL of Adam's race is dead. They do deeds of death, live lives of death and will end up eternally dead. *"Broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many take it."* (Matt 7:13-14)
2. NONE of Adam's race will ever see heaven. None qualify.
3. Only JESUS' race get to heaven. *"But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."*
4. NO ONE can be born into Jesus' race without dying to Adam's race first.
5. Jesus' human race is a NEW CREATION of beings. They live by the Tree of Life.

(Dick Bell).