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A0417 -- April 25, 2004 -- 1 John 1:1 -- The Seed of the Woman

REVIEW

Last week, we found that there is a lot of confusion over the book of 1 John because people fail to outline the book. Instead of finding the four purpose clauses in the book (1:4; 2:1; 2:26; and 5:13), they jump only to 5:13 and claim that the purpose of the whole book is so that those who CLAIM to be believers can know whether they really are believers. But this is absurd when we realize that John is writing to believers. John is not contrasting the true believer with the false believer, but the regenerate nature with the old nature.

John is far from teaching perfectionism. The true purpose of John's epistle is actually two-fold: 1) fellowship, which results in 2) joy. What causes so much trouble is the troublesome 1 John 3:9. Scholars typically translate the phrase "no one who is born of God practices sin." So, they see the verb as "habitual sins." In other words, the TRUE believers don't habitually sin. However, this creates the contradiction with 1:8 and 5:16 which says believers cannot claim to be without sin (same verb, same tense). Well, maybe we don't really understand John's writings. The real problem is they have failed to outline the book and find John's true purpose. The context of the troublesome 3:9 is found in 3:5-6. No one who is where? IN HIM? No one who is IN HIM sins. Why? Because His seed abides in him. So, we discovered that the regenerate nature of a believer is composed of His seed abiding in him, and when we operate out of that new nature, we cannot sin precisely because it is His seed. Your regenerate nature is, therefore, the creation of Christ's sinless seed in you. This does not contradict 1 John 1:8 with 5:16, because there, John is looking at the whole man, not just his regenerate nature. Therefore, we can say with John, "If I claim to be without sin [nature], I am a liar and the truth is not in me," but also, "My regenerate nature cannot sin because it is born of God." The believer has two natures: a regenerate nature that cannot sin and an old nature that does sin. This resolves the supposed contradiction in the book. We

found that Paul taught the same thing in Gal. 2:20 where he said, “I no longer live but Christ lives in me” and in Rom. 7:20 where Paul says, “It is not I who sin but sin which lives in me.” Paul wasn’t copping out or avoiding responsibility for sinning, Paul was speaking of his new regenerate nature. And we can conclude from Paul that the first steps in true spirituality are to recognize that as a believer, your identification is now in Christ and not in Adam. When you sin, it is not out of your new nature in Christ but your old nature which is no longer the “real you.”

If this sinless, immortal seed of Christ is now abiding in you, the question is, how was Christ born of the seed of a mortal, sinful woman and yet avoid the sin nature and mortality so that we could be partakers of His sinless immortal seed? In other words, how did this immortal seed come from a corrupt race? Look at 1 John 1:1 (on the back of your bulletin). John clearly has in mind the true humanity of Christ. But what is “true humanity” anyway? Is the phrase “to err is human” really accurate? Is sin a necessary component of true humanity? To discover where the seed of Christ came from so we can understand the “true humanity” of Christ, we have to speak of the Original Composition of Man at Creation, the immortal man Adam. Second, we have to look at man Fallen, acquiring a sin nature; and finally deal with the problem of how the Son of God could avoid the sin nature if He must come through the “seed of the woman.” So, this morning we have to spend some time in Anatomy and Physiology. This should not surprise us too much since God created the entire universe, including the chemical, physical, and biological processes.

I. CREATION SETS THE STAGE FOR THE INCARNATION

Galatians 4:4-5 – God sent forth His Son made of a woman.

John 1:14 – The word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

A. Formula for Man’s Composition (Gen. 2:7)

Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Formula: Body + Spirit = Soul

Man has a body, man has a spirit, man is a soul.

The soul is not something distinct, some third component; but rather, it is the fusion of two components, body and spirit. However, the soul does have capacities and characteristics that result from and are distinct from those of either the body or the spirit left to themselves (e.g., metal alloy). In other words, the fusion of body and spirit is synergistic, in that the results have additional capacities and characteristics common to neither the body or the spirit. Man is, therefore, a dichotomy if looked at from the perspective of the parts that make up the whole of man. When looked at merely as a whole, it is sufficient to speak of man as a “soul.”

B. Two Deaths of Man

If man, therefore, has a body and a spirit, then when Adam fell, he experienced two deaths: a bodily death in which man’s originally immortal body is now mortal, and a spiritual death in which man’s spirit is now separated from fellowship with God. Thus, man’s body is in need of redemption (Rom. 8:23) and man’s spirit is in need of regeneration (John 3:7).

C. Need of a Redeemer to Remedy the Two Deaths

For God to meet both of man’s needs in body and spirit, a Redeemer must be “truly human,” having both a “body” and a “spirit” if He is going to be able to undo the two deaths of man in body and spirit; for no half salvation will do to reconstitute man to his original design. The First Adam originally had bodily immortality and spiritual purity but lost it through the Fall. The Second Adam must somehow restore that original perfection of the First Adam in order to become the Head of a new and truly human race. He must do so in order to become a true “substitute.” To do this, a Redeemer must die two deaths: a physical death and a spiritual death. To qualify, He must be immortal so that His physical death is voluntary and not necessary (John 10:18). His spiritual death must be His separation from God the Father by being made sin in our behalf (2 Cor. 5:21). Both were accomplished on the cross. First, His spiritual death occurred while He was separated from God the Father from 12 noon until 3 p.m. when darkness covered the earth. Second, his physical death occurred when He, of His own volition, gave up His spirit by breathing His last.

Christ could not redeem the whole man if He died a mere spiritual death. This would be only a half-redemption. Man is not a mere spirit. If he were, he would be like the angels. As it is, man is an embodied spirit. So, man shares something with both the angels and animals. With angels, the human spirit shares language, accountability, and volition. With animals, he shares a body that houses the spirit. So, man is an absolutely unique creation of God. Therefore, for a Redeemer to truly redeem the whole man, He would have to die both a spiritual and a physical death. Because 1 John 1:1 clearly has the incarnation of the Humanity of Christ in mind, we will center our study on the formation of Christ's physical body. How could Christ's physical body be both the "seed of the woman" and yet avoid inheriting a sin nature so that His body could be a sinless sacrifice that would please God and therefore provide redemption for your physical body?

II. FORMATION OF EVE OUT FROM ADAM (Gen. 2:21-23; 1 Cor. 11:8, 12; 1 Tim. 2:13)

Why did God first create Adam from the dust of the earth and the breath of life and then form Eve out of Adam? Why not create Eve in the same way as Adam? Why go to all the trouble of creating Adam and then indirectly create Eve out of Adam?

So, the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place. And the Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. And the man said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

The difference between Adam and Eve's creations results in and paves the way for special protection of the woman's seed generation after generation so that the male seed could be bypassed at the virgin birth and the Son's body could be immortal and perfect.

A. Truth of Androgynous Adam

Our thesis will be that God created Adam with both male and female seeds and subsequently formed Eve out from Adam. In this surgery, He took the female seed and located it in her body, forming it in such a way that it would preserve

the immortal seed generation after generation without being corrupted by sin.

To put it genetically, Adam had double the number of chromosomes that you and I have (23). In terms of his sex chromosomes, Adam had a pair of both male and female. This should not be too difficult to imagine, for even today all males have an X and Y chromosome. The Y is the male chromosome and the X is the female chromosome, so all males today still carry a female chromosome. In fact, there are physical remnants on the male body today that reflect the originally created Adam (I'll let you use your imagination). But Adam had two pair of sex chromosomes, and when God formed Eve out from Adam, He took one pair of XX chromosomes and formed a body that would preserve the immortal seed generation after generation without being corrupted by sin.

So, from one Androgynous Adam, God made two: Andro Adam and Gyno Eve, and then the two parts were re-constituted as one flesh by God in marriage (Gen. 2:26).

B. Ancient Cultures Reflect Androgynous Adam

This "truth," as set forth in the Bible, is also found in many early cultures. Berossus (260BC) says of the original man, "With two heads, one that of a man and the other that of a woman, united in the same body with both sexes combined." The Chinese literature states, "God took some yellow earth and He made men of two sexes." Plato, in his Symposium, ch XIV, says, "It was then one man-woman." Empedocles, one of the early evolutionist thinkers of ancient Greece says, "Soon various influences reduced the creature of double sex to a male and female." Rashi, a well-known Rabbi of the 11th century AD says, "The Midrash explains that man as first created consisted of two halves, male and female, which afterwards separated." Many other Jewish scholars including Maimonides, Nahmanides, and the Jewish Targums also teach that a true cleavage took place, that the original man was androgynous.

C. What Was The "Rib"?

The Hebrew word is *tsela* and is translated in the LXX as pleuran, which is the Greek word for "side." This indicates that the Jews thought of the Hebrew word *tsela* not as a rib, but a word for "the side of something." The Arabic cognate word of the Hebrew *tsela* had the interesting sense of "wife" or "a person at

one's side." It is much better to understand the Hebrew *tsela* not as "rib" but rather as "the side of." God took the "side of Adam" and fashioned Eve. This is the Scripture's way of describing the surgical operation of God separating the Androgynous Adam into male and female.

III. GOD HATH MADE ALL OF ONE (Mal. 2:10; Acts 17:26)

And He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth...

The Scriptures declare that God made all men from one man. Why not all men from two, Adam and Eve? Why did God go through such a complex procedure? What is so important about starting with one? There are two reasons: both genetic, but with far-reaching theological implications.

A. Genetic Reason #1: Genetic Unity of the Human Race

There had to be ONE original Head so that there could be a true unity of the human race. If there were TWO original Heads, then the problem is how to redeem a TWO-Headed race by ONE man? Everyone is a descendant of Adam, not Adam and Eve, but Adam alone. Even Eve was a descendant of Adam because she was taken from Adam. Even Christ was a descendant of Adam because He came through the seed of the woman. He is also called the Son of Adam who was the first Son of God (Luke 3:38). Jesus is also called the Son of God. This is one reason we have genealogies in the Bible to trace the true humanity of Christ. Interestingly, it is the woman Mary's genealogy (Luke 3:38) where Jesus' lineage is traced back all the way to Adam. This way one Redeemer can trace his lineage to Adam and can truly represent ALL of Adam's descendants, which is the entire human race. All FELL in ADAM all can be REDEEMED in CHRIST (Rom. 5:12-21).

This fact also explains why there is no salvation for angels. All angels are original creations, they do not procreate (Matt. 22:30); thus, they do not have familial relationships (brother, father), they do not increase in number, they have no ORIGINAL HEAD. As Thomas Aquinas so perceptively saw, "each angel is a single species" and to redeem each angel would require a single Redeemer for each angel. But the human race is much different, we can have a single Redeemer for the entire human race because we all have a single

common ancestor, Adam. When angels fell, they fell individually. When mankind fell, we fell corporately because we are all related to Adam our Head. It therefore follows that we can be redeemed by a single Redeemer who is related to mankind. But there is no such redemption for angels because every angel would need an individual redeemer.

B. Genetic Reason #2: Surgical Separation of Adam and Eve Before the Fall

If Adam was originally Androgynous (and the Scriptures assert that he was), then if Adam had fallen BEFORE being cleaved into Adam and Eve, then the poison of the fruit would have poisoned both the “seed of the man” and the “seed of the woman.” This would have cut off salvation from the human race. Thus, Eve had to be taken out of Adam BEFORE the FALL so that her unique bodily structure could be formed in such a way to protect her germ cells from the poison of the forbidden fruit. The “seed of the woman” had to be set apart and protected so that someday it could be miraculously germinated by the Holy Spirit (Gen. 3:15; Luke 1:35), providing the original male component so that Jesus could be a true human untainted by the poison of the fruit and avoiding a sin nature.

IV. SEED OF THE MAN AND SEED OF THE WOMAN (Gen. 3:15)

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed[Greek: Spermas]; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.

In the 19th century, the question arose as to the mechanism of inherited characteristics. Two major theories arose: Darwinian Natural Selection and Lamarckian Acquired Inheritance. Lamarck proposed that if a parent acquired a characteristic, that acquired characteristic would be passed on to the offspring (e.g. Chinese feet, large muscles). After experimentation, scientists discounted Lamarck’s mechanism. One famous experiment was by Weismann’s (who cut off the tail of every rat for over 100 generations). Every rat was born with a new tail, disproving Lamarck’s Acquired Inheritance mechanism. But many Christian biologists were concerned when Lamarck’s mechanism was discounted in every respect because of Romans 5:12. Romans 5:12 seemed to teach that Adam was originally immortal and had acquired mortality by eating of the fruit. This mortality was then passed on to all Adam’s

offspring. This sounded like mortality was an acquired characteristic in line with Lamarck's mechanism of inheritance. Weismann's experimental observations brought him to the conclusion that each body contained some substance that carried the instructions for forming a new body each generation. He did not yet know about genes, so this was a startling and brilliant explanation. He called this unknown substance germ plasm. And it has been demonstrated extensively that the germ plasm resides in germ cells which are extremely resistant to environmental factors. They are very stable genetically. Further, these germ cells carry the instructions for forming a new body or house to protect the germ cells. Our understanding brings to light that the body is almost incidental, being a mere house that returns to dust and temporarily housing the germ cells which, when fertilized quickly, construct a new body/house. Generation after generation, bodies die and return to dust, but the seed continues on in an unbroken line beginning with Adam, going all the way to Mary and continuing even today.

A. How Death Passes from Adam to All Men (Rom. 5:12)

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

How does death pass from Adam to all men? The male seed, which is sinful, unites with the seed of the woman, which is immortal and pure, and the cells begins to divide. During early stages of division, each cell can become any part of the body (totipotency) but through division of the cytoplasm, the body cells begin to differentiate/specialize. But the germ cells never specialize (never lose totipotency). If the chromosomes are for a female XX, then when differentiation begins, the germ cells are separated and later harbored within a protective structure of the female body. The female body cells, however, are tainted by the sinful male seed, and now subject to death, rendering the female body mortal but the female germ cells immortal.

B. Difference Between Female Seed and Male Seed

Significantly, there is a difference between the "seed of the woman" and the "seed of the man." The female oocytes are ALL formed by the time of birth and are not poisoned, but the male spermatozoa are formed over the entire lifetime of the male and therefore are susceptible to the poisoned body cells. So, this

means that the body cells of both male and female are poisoned by the sin nature, but the germ cells of (only) the female are immortal and pure. Thus, every body, male and female, dies; but the germ cells viable offspring (at least in the animal world) without having been fertilized by a male seed. This discovery is known as Parthenogenesis. This is what is referred to as a virgin conception resulting in a virgin birth. This has never been observed in the male seed. Male seeds always die in a few days, even in suitable environments. This observation reveals the immortal nature of the female seed. It also indicates that the physical death factor comes solely from the male seed. Parthenogenesis has very wide occurrence in the animal world, and there is no reason to assume that it is not possible among humans. A few cases among humans have been researched and never disproved.

Now we can see how the “seed of the woman” Mary could be immortal and without a sin nature so that 1) Jesus could be born of the “seed of woman”, fulfilling Genesis 3:15; 2) Jesus could be immortal, so that He could give up His life of His own volition (John 10:18); and 3) Jesus could avoid a sin nature so that His sacrifice would be acceptable before God the Father. Thus, there is a continuity of the germ plasm from generation to generation among females to make this all possible.

Having been endowed with immortality, Adam and Eve acquired mortality. And, which is significant from a physiological point of view, their offspring inherited this acquired character. We have here therefore a clear case of something which actually happened that, until comparatively recent times, was ruled out as an impossibility. It has been the traditional wisdom among geneticists for about a hundred years that acquired characters are not inherited. Yet here was an acquired character that "passed upon all men" (Romans 5:12). It seems rather strange to me that no Christian biologist has given much thought to the matter.

[Click here to see the Seed of the Woman diagram.](#)

V. Conclusion

In short, to summarize a series of complex observations, it may be said that the seed of the woman is the only remnant that has retained the original immortality possessed by our first parents. By contrast, the seed of man and

the body cells of both the man and the woman have been mortalized. Furthermore, even the seed of the woman is fatally poisoned by fusion with the male seed.

However, this poison affects only that portion of the woman's seed which will develop into body cells: the remainder of her seed continues to form the immortal stream of germ plasm. Only if an ovum from this germ plasm reservoir can be fertilized by some means not natural to man can a body with the original endowment of potential immortality like Adam be recovered again. This is where the Holy Spirit came in and supernaturally inseminated Mary's immortal, pure seed. This is the only mechanism which satisfies all the texts of Scripture. We are blessed to live in a day when we are able to more closely than ever scrutinize the humanity of Christ which has made possible the Salvation of the human race. God's creation of Eve out of Adam before the Fall was fundamental to the Plan of Redemption so all men could be saved in the One Person of Jesus Christ. Nothing happens by chance in this universe, it is all of design and purpose.

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