**A NEW GENEALOGY AND LINEAGE**

**Romans 5:12, 15**

**The Second Sunday After Pentecost**

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

**Springfield, Missouri**

**14 June *Anno Domini* 2020**

**Today we are going to talk about genealogies and lineages. Perhaps you already know some of the contemporary wisdom that has been passed down from family to family. Usually in tidbits of truth, such as:**

 **\*Home is the place where you can say whatever is on your mind with no**

 **fear. . .since no one will be listening to you anyway**

 **\*It is hard to know just where one generation ends and the next one begins,**

 **but it is somewhere around 9:00 pm**

 **\*Money isn’t everything, but it is a surefire way not to lose touch with your**

 **teenagers**

 **\*Parenting itself is hereditary. If your parents didn’t have any children,**

 **you’re not likely to have any either**

 **\*Poverty is hereditary. And you can get it from your children!**

 **\*Nothing keeps a family together like having every vehicle but one in the**

 **shop at the same time.**

**These tidbits of truth are also passed along in stories:**

 **A curious eight year old boy asked his mother where he came from and**

**because all the kids in his class were telling all kinds of different stories, where all babies come from. Caught hugely off guard and knowing she**

**would regret it, she answered with the tale of the stork who comes down**

**from heaven with babies wrapped in swaddling cloths. He shook his**

**head and went next door to ask his grandma; and got a variation of the**

**same bird theory. At school the next day on the playground he reported**

**his findings to his classmates, “Guys, I don’t think I’m the right man to solve this mystery, because there hasn’t been a normal birth in our family for three generations!”**

**The Holy Scriptures have something to say about genealogies and lineages; no,**

**they have everything to say about genealogies and lineages, as we just heard in**

**Romans chapter five. Let’s hear it again:**

 ***Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death***

 ***through sin, even so death spread to all men because all sinned. . .but***

 ***the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s***

 ***trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace***

 ***of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many***

**This is the Word of the Lord. Amen.**

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**St. Paul gives us a foundational truth that is hidden in mystery from the world. For us believers, it is fundamental for our Christian life that we believe this truth and think and feel and live in it. This is one of those divine truths revealed to us that we simply cannot compromise and come out alright. It is the reality of our genealogy—what it is that makes us what we are, that makes us weak. And what it is of our Savior’s life and death that makes it so powerful. And here is that basic truth:**

**The behavior choice, the act, of one man—the first man Adam, “daddy” of the human race—not only led to his own corruption, but in his place as the human, literal biological father of humanity, passed on the very lineage of sin and the sinful nature to all of the human race. Genesis chapter one through three is the Word of God. One cannot, in any sense and use of the reason with which God created His human creatures, say the Bible is the Word of God, and then exempt the first three chapters given to Moses at the outset of the process of inspiration. It is understandable among us when those outside the Church who have yet to be brought to faith, think this way; how can they know a heavenly mystery without faith? But when those within the Church pick and choose, knowingly (or unknowingly we pray for them), they place their own opinions and judgments above the Word of God, a dangerous error of arrogance that is in reality ignorance.**

**When Adam and Eve listened to the temptation of Satan, seeking his false promise of divine status for themselves, their rebellious act corrupted God’s original creation. They corrupted themselves, turning aside from the perfect holiness and goodness in which God had made them and called them to be His children. They lost the image of God in which He constructed them mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. They also lost the immortality of their material, physical bodies, which instantly transformed from imperishable to perishable by aging, disease, accident all leading to death. The rest of creation was impacted—the inorganic and the living world, plant and animal kingdoms—subjected to corruption and death. The harmony of nature lost; the harmony and ease of dominion God has assigned to humanity—lost; the harmony of human to human relationship—lost; the harmony of the relationship between God and His human children—broken, separated, lost.**

**Scripture declares this essential and necessary truth everywhere—Psalm 51 teaches that we are *conceived and born into sin and death*; Psalm 58 states that the wicked and evil are *estranged from the womb*; Ephesians 2 tells us we, too, are *by nature children of wrath, like the rest of humankind*; and in both Old and New Testaments that *all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God*.**

**We human creatures do not just sin in the sense of being guilty by the lineage of the original sin of Adam and Eve, by imputation; rather, by this original sin of our first parents, all humans sin. Sin is the nature in the genealogy of the human race. The human race is one race. Differences in geography, language, ethnic background, skin color, intelligence level, gender, religious beliefs, socioeconomic status—none of these matter when it comes to our genealogy and spiritual lineage. Sin is the nature**

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**of fallen humanity. This is the core of our weakness, of our helplessness, and of our hostility to God and the truths of His Word. We are dying from the moment of birth, and we no power to keep ourselves alive. In our sinful nature, we are doomed and destined to choose the path of sin.**

**And if this is all a person knows, then no wonder some people who are seeking something in this fallen world in which to believe, some spirituality or religion in which they are given a promise that they can perform their way into a perfect afterlife, or who can through human political, economic, and social philosophy build a utopia here on earth, devote themselves to these schemes. Yet history even shows us that all of these experiments fail. The human genealogy and lineage cannot be overcome. The sinful nature of humanity rules the whole human population, and cannot by human ideas, plans, or experiments be broken. The sinful human mind refuses with lifelong stubbornness to accept this truth, rejecting God’s Word, history, and common sense. The fallen human nature prefers to worship the struggle of its own kind.**

**Only another act of God can undo the curse.**

**And from that tragic moment in the Garden of Eden, God the Creator and Father of the human race, resolved to do it. He promised it to Adam and Eve. He continued to promise it throughout human history. He created a new nation out of a pitiful slave population—perhaps the worst slavery story, some 400 years, in all of history. The nation He called His chosen, holy people, were all conceived and born with the sinful nature, and most of the time they acted it out in hostility and unfaithfulness to their God, who was in the process of saving them and through them, the whole world. But nothing could stop Him! And then the most special moment, the central event in all of human history occurred.**

**The cursed genealogy and lineage was reversed. A new genealogy from heaven was established on the fallen earth. A new perfect, holy man appeared on earth, not created in the image of God, not created at all. He was conceived. He was born into the world in the natural way. But this was not His beginning. He was of a new, completely unique type. He was the Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity. He was God. He was God when He was a zygote; He was God as a fetus in every stage of development in Mary’s womb; He was God when a newborn, an infant, a toddler, a boy, a man.**

***Therefore just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and even so death spread to all men because all sinned--. . .but the free gift (****of Jesus****) is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, even so much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one Man Jesus Christ abounded for many.***

**The free gift Jesus gave us in His perfectly lived holy life and in His innocent death earned nothing for Him, for He had nothing to earn. He had no need to save**

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**Himself, but all He did was on our behalf. His life and death earned reconciliation for the human race with their Creator, forgiveness of sins, and rescue from the power that both death and the author of death had over this earth. Jesus does all of this in a spiritual and supernatural way. In your Baptism, you became a child of God, and He communicates His nature and image to you through the gift of His Holy Spirit. His Spirit comes to live with you and in you, putting to death the power of the old nature, the old genealogy and lineage, and He plants in you a new genealogy and lineage, a born-again and new nature. Just as the children of Adam all sin, all are cursed with hostility to the one, true God and His Word and will, and all die. . .even so through Jesus, the old nature of sin, the heritage of Adam that already has been killed on Jesus’ cross, and the curse of death are all replaced as a free gift by Christ’s righteousness, His forgiveness, and His immortality.**

**May this truth be the foundation for all that you believe in the mind God gave you, in all of the emotions you experience in the heart God gave you, as your guide in your words and in your behavior choices, and in the new genealogy and lineage God has brought to life in your soul. Amen.**

**** Reverend William R. Marler, Pentecost 2 *anno Domini* 2020