


# FEDERAL HEADSHIP (REPRESENTATIVE) OVERVIEW


The Biblical doctrine of Federal Headship teaches that the father (male) is the one who represents his family (descendants). The following examples can only make sense if they are understood in a Federal Headship (representative) way.

## 1 In Adam All Die (Ro. 5:12-21) Adam Represents All Men

## 2 Second Man (Last Adam) (1Co. 15:21-22, 45-47) Jesus Represents All Believers

## 3 Levi Paid Tithes in Abraham (Hb. 7:8-10) Abraham Represents Levi

- It is always the male that is a federal head. Let us consider Eve in the Garden of Eden. Eve was the first to eat of the forbidden fruit, and so she was the first to sin. She clearly had sufficient knowledge of the prohibition not to eat of the tree. She clearly told the serpent the particulars. She was not ignorant of God's Word. So the question may be asked, 'Does the Bible anywhere say that sin entered into the world through Eve?' No it does not. The Bible does not lessen her responsibility because she was deceived? **1 Timothy 2:14**, "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." Eve did not inherit Adam's sin. She was guilty on her own. 
- Adam is the head of mankind. He represented mankind in the Fall. **Romans 5:12**, "all have sinned" is an aorist indicative. This means the action is completed in the past. When Adam sinned, God considers that all men sinned in Adam. When Adam fell we fell, because we all are "in him" in a representative way. What Adam did counts as what we did. These are referencing the position of people in relationship to Adam. Adam had the authority to represent people in the Fall, so also Jesus had the right and authority to represent people in salvation. When Adam fell, we fell. This is true because Adam represents us. Believers positionally are "in Christ." Christ represents all who believe because of the cross (**1Co.15:21-22**).
- Some may argue, that is not fair! We should not be held responsible for Adam's sin. We are not held responsible for Adam's sin. Adam's sin brought on us (1) guilt; and (2) fallen nature. The result of all having a sinful nature, is that we personally and individually sin. Every time we sin we give our 'yea' and 'amen' to what he did.
- The one offense of Adam resulted in condemnation to all men (**Rm.5:15-18**). And so the other side of the parallel is "also" true. The one righteous deed of Christ resulted in justification to all. Verse 18 is not teaching universalism, but the text does say righteousness came upon all men. The deeds of the respective persons, Adam and Jesus, had definite results upon those whom they represented. To deny the one is to deny the other.
- Adam did represent all mankind. However, Jesus did not inherit Adam's sin. He was born of a virgin through the Holy Spirit. So the seed of His birth did not come through sinful man.
- Jesus represents us so completely that it can be said that we have died with Him on the cross (**Rm.6:8; Ga.2:20; 2Tm.2:11**). Plus He represents us at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest. He can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities (**Hb.4:15**).

"<sup>8</sup>And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. <sup>9</sup>And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him." (**Hb.7:8-10**) 

- Levi was a distant descendant of Abraham, yet it is said that Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek even though he had not yet been born (**Hb.7:4**).
- When Melchizedek blessed Abraham, he was blessing the house of Levi (**Hb.7:6**).
- On earth the priests received tithes, but in Genesis 14 the priests (in Abraham's loins) gave tithes to Melchizedek (**Hb.7:9-10**).
- We know that Levi did not physically carry out the act of paying tithes to Melchizedek. Abraham did. But as Levi's Federal Head, when Abraham gave the tithe, Levi gave the same tithe.



Adam — Represents All Men	Christ — Represents All Believers
• Head of all mankind	• Head of all Believers
• Represents us in the Fall	• Represents us in Salvation (on the Cross)
• Death reigns ( <b>Rm.5:17</b> )	• Righteousness reigns ( <b>Rm.5:17</b> )
• There are those "in Adam" ( <b>1Co.15:22</b> )	• There are those "in Christ" ( <b>1Co.15:22</b> )
• Adam's one sin resulted in condemnation to all ( <b>Rm.5:18</b> )	• Christ's righteousness resulted in justification to all who believe ( <b>Rm.5:18</b> )
• One man's disobedience made many sinners ( <b>Rm.5:19</b> )	• One man's obedience made many righteous ( <b>Rm.5:19</b> )

