

INDIVIDUALS & COLLECTIVES

2 Corinthians 5:10



THE ACCUSATION

- God deals with men in the collective and so we should take responsibility for and “repent” of collective sin (Ex. 20:5-6; 34:6-7; Num. 14:18-20; Ezra 9:6-15; Neh. 1:4-7; Dan. 9:1-19).
- If we are guilty of Adam’s sin, we are also responsible for all the sins between Adam and ourselves.
- If we enjoy the advantages created by sins of previous generations, then we are participating in their sins.



THE CONSEQUENCES

- People are identified by collective identity and not as individuals.
- Responsibility shifts from the individual to the collective.
- Repentance must be perpetual.
- There is no absolution unless that society is completely destroyed.
- We must trace every asset back to its origin and if it has ever passed through wicked hands, we cannot possess it.



THE TRUTH

- The story of all humanity begins in individual terms (Gen. 3:9-19; 4:6-7).
- The destruction of all humanity is punctuated by an individual escape from that judgment (Gen. 6:8-9).
- It is appropriate to recognize the collectives we belong to (1 Cor. 9:20-22).
- The answer to being a part of an evil collective is to not behave like they do (Tit. 1:12-13).
- Even in a collective where we have actual responsibility, there is room for individual distinction (Rev. 3:4).
- We will ultimately stand in judgment in absolute individual terms (2 Cor 5:10).
- We must have some balance on enjoying blessings from wicked origins (1 Cor. 10:25-29).

