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Michael Jinkins on Christ and Adam

We're sometimes asked "Are you sure the adoption of humanity is the gospel? I've never heard it before." In this light we find it helpful to look at the writings of other Christians who have expressed the gospel clearly.

Theologian Michael Jinkins had this to say about how Jesus is the reversal of humanity's fall in Adam:

Think again of [Karl] Barth's statement: "Jesus Christ is the secret truth about the essential nature of man." The deep, hidden secret about our humanity is not that we are descended from Adam, it is not that we have in our family tree a fratricidal character like Cain, nor is it that our family closet is full of skeletons that rattle in the dark, which we must keep hidden at all costs. No indeed. Jesus Christ is our family secret. This is the heart of Paul's gospel, and it turns the Fall on its head. Christ identifies so completely with our humanity that we come to discover our true identity only in and through him. Christ is, to use Paul's expression, *the one for the many* or *the one for all*. Who Christ is, he is for all humanity and not merely for the Jewish nation and certainly not [merely] for the members of some Johnny-come-lately Gentile cult [i.e. Christianity]. ~ *Invitation to Theology*, pp. 166-167. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001.