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Gregory of Nyssa on Humanity's Resurrection

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 go back to the ancient Christians who saw the gospel in light of humanity's adoption into the Triune Life.

In the Fourth Century Gregory of Nyssa wrote about the way in which we are all included in Jesus' resurrection, just as we were all included in Adam's fall. Here's what Gregory wrote:

As the principle of death took its rise in one person and passed on in succession through the whole of human kind, in like manner the principle of the Resurrection-life extends from one person to the whole of humanity. . . For when, in that concrete humanity which He had taken to Himself, the soul after the dissolution returned to the body, then this uniting of the several portions passes, as by a new principle, in equal force upon the whole human race. This, then, is the mystery of God's plan with regard to His death and His resurrection from the dead; namely, instead of preventing the dissolution of His body by death and the necessary results of nature, to bring both back to each other in the resurrection; so that He might become in Himself the meeting-ground both of life and death . . . *The Great Catechism*, Chap. 16