

1 Corinthians 15:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As is the earthly, such are they also that are earthly: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

Analysis

As is the earthly, such are they also that are earthly (οὗτος ὁ χοϊκός, τοιοῦτοι καὶ οἱ χοϊκοί)—The demonstrative pronouns hoios (οὗτος, "such as") and toιouτοι (τοιοῦτοι, "such, of such kind") indicate likeness and correspondence. All humanity "in Adam" shares his earthly, mortal nature. We bear his image (Genesis 5:3)—not merely physical resemblance but shared nature, condition, and destiny. Under Adamic headship, all die (v. 22).

And as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly (καὶ οὗτος ὁ ἐπουράνιος, τοιοῦτοι καὶ οἱ ἐπουράνιοι)—Similarly, believers "in Christ" share His heavenly nature. Through faith-union with Christ, believers are transferred from Adamic to Christic headship. The phrase hoi epouranioi (οἱ ἐπουράνιοι, "the heavenly ones") describes believers' future resurrection state, not present condition. We will be like Christ—bearing His resurrection body's character (1 John 3:2).

Historical Context

Federal theology (covenant headship) developed from Pauline Adam-Christ typology. The Westminster Confession (7.2-3) articulates covenant of works (Adam) and covenant of grace (Christ). Believers' union with Christ—legal, vital, and mystical—transfers them from Adam's condemnation to Christ's righteousness and resurrection life.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does being 'in Adam' or 'in Christ' determine our nature and destiny?
2. What does it mean that believers are 'heavenly ones'—how does this shape present identity?
3. How is union with Christ formed—what unites believers to Christ's headship?

Interlinear Text

οὗτος	ό	χοϊκοί	τοιοῦτοι	καὶ	οἱ	χοϊκοί	καὶ	οὗτος
As	G3588	is the earthy	such	also	G3588	is the earthy	also	As
G3634		G5517	G5108	G2532		G5517	G2532	G3634
ό	ἐπουράνιοι·	τοιοῦτοι	καὶ	οἱ	ἐπουράνιοι·			
G3588	are they	such	also	G3588	are they			
	G2032	G5108	G2532		G2032			

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 5:3 (Parallel theme): And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

Job 14:4 (Parallel theme): Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.

John 3:6 (Parallel theme): That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.