

Abram's Maturity Adjustment: He Understood His Adultery Caused His Sterility, Not Old Age, Rom 4:19; Facing Hopeless & Helpless Situations: the Grace Pipeline; Invisible Reality Is Greater than Visible Reality

13. Therefore, in the next verse Paul addresses Abraham's maturity adjustment to the justice of God:

Romans 4:19 - And so, not becoming weak in faith, he completely understood his own body which had received sexual death when he was about 100 years old and likewise the deadness of Sarah's womb.

1. Abraham realizes the reality of his and Sarah's physical condition. From the human viewpoint there is no way they will be able to sire a child.
2. This realization sets up a challenge for Abraham's advance to spiritual maturity. He faces a hopeless situation and is helpless to do anything about it.
3. But when a believer views the integrity of God to be more real than the temporal reality he faces, then the grace pipeline will flow with great blessings regardless of the trial to be endured.
4. In his soul, Abraham trumped the reality of sexual death by concentrating on the reality of God's immutable Word. Invisible reality is greater than visible reality.
5. PRINCIPLE: When a person faces intractable and hopeless situations what he needs is the reality of the integrity of God. People may be sympathetic, offer condolences, and send cards, but each of us must bear the cross assigned with doctrine in the soul.
6. When Abraham contemplated the physical impossibility of him and Sarah procreating, his soul was challenged to focus on invisible doctrine rather than visible reality. Therefore, Paul writes, "not becoming weak in faith."
7. God said to Abraham that he would bear a son through Sarah and he would become the father of many nations. Abraham decided to go with this covenant rather than the reality of his sexual death.
8. We see the greatness of Abraham not only in this passage regarding the birth of Isaac but also in his willingness to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Moriah. In the former case, Abraham believed that Sarah would bear him a son. In the latter case, Abraham believes that even if he must sacrifice Isaac then God must resuscitate him in order for the covenant to be fulfilled. In each case doctrine insured that God would keep his word.
9. Doctrinal common sense enables the believer to accurately evaluate his circumstance and to make decisions with regard to addressing it.
10. The reason Abraham experienced sexual death was not because of age but because of Operation Hagar. Anxious to sire a son to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant, he opted for a human-viewpoint solution motivated by impatience and facilitated by sexual arrogance.
11. Ezekiel has a acerbic way of describing this involvement in cosmic 1 sexual arrogance with his description of both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms' involvement in religion and idolatry:

Ezekiel 23:30 - I will do these things unto thee [**national discipline**], because thou hast gone a whoring after the heathen, and because thou art polluted with their idols. (KJV)

12. Abraham's adultery with Hagar resulted in him becoming sterile. He had been unable to bear children for 13 years due to his lack of faith in God's promise to him.
13. The grammar of the Koine Greek in this verse explains this circumstance. The sentence reads, "He understood **his** own body which had received sexual death." Abraham has a problem for which he took responsibility.
14. The pronoun "his," **ἐαυτοῦ, heautou**, is reflexive and refers the action back to whom it references. Abraham admits responsibility for the problem of sexual death suffered by his own body: the noun **σῶμα, sōma**.
15. The next phrase indicates that the body received something for which Abraham was responsible: "which had received." This is one word in the Greek, the perfect passive participle of **νεκρόω, nekroō**:
 perfect: Dramatic: used to describe a fact in an unusually vivid and realistic way. It refers to something that started in the past and has continued for 13 years.
 The dramatic perfect emphasizes the results of a completed action, in this case sexual death.
 passive: the subject, Abraham's body, received the action of sexual death.
 participle: Circumstantial: recognizes the historical fact of Abraham's sexual death.
16. The reflexive pronoun *heautou*, puts the action of the verb back on the subject with is Abraham. His sexual death was not due to old age but to his arrogant impatience with God's timing for the promise's fulfillment.
17. The verb *nekroō* is in the passive voice and means that Abraham received sexual death as a result of something thought and acted upon. In fact, it was a series of thoughts that revealed Abraham's residence in the cosmic systems.