

Romans 5:12-21

*“How We Got Into This Mess ...
And How We’ll Get Out of It”*

A Study in Romans

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“For the Glory of God Alone”

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¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— ¹³ for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law.

¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.

¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶ Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.



¹⁸ Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, ²¹ so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

~Romans 5:12-21

“Most people consider Romans 5:12-21...to be the most difficult passage in the epistle...as far as complete human comprehension is concerned, the truths of this passage are beyond reach.”

~John MacArthur

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“No passage in the New Testament has had such an influence on theology as this; and no passage is more difficult for us to understand today.” ~William Barclay



The Human Condition

Solidarity: In the Jewish worldview, a person never really thought of himself as an individual, but always as a part of a clan, a people, a nation. The individual had no real existence apart from the group.

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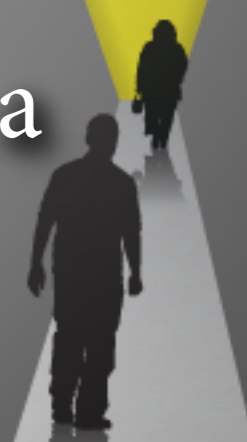


The Human Condition

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Achan's Example (Joshua 7): Because of the sin of one man, Achan, at Jericho, the entire nation suffered defeat in the next battle during the siege of Ai. When one man sinned, the whole nation was branded as having sinned, and was punished.

The nation was not a collection of individuals; it was a mass of people in solidarity.



The Human Condition

No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as any manner of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

~John Donne



The Human Condition

Because of our solidarity with Adam, we are “dead men walking.” We are all under a death sentence because of Adam’s sin.

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The Human Condition

Because of our solidarity with Adam, we are “dead men walking.” We are all under a death sentence because of Adam’s sin.

“You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we’re in—first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death.” ~Romans 5:12 (MSG)



The Human Condition

Every human being, without exception, even the best among us, is helplessly infected with sin-tainted DNA.

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The Human Condition

Every human being, without exception, even the best among us, is helplessly infected with sin-tainted DNA.

“Even those who didn’t sin precisely as Adam did by disobeying a specific command of God still had to experience this termination of life, this separation from God.”
~Romans 5:14 (MSG)



The Last Adam

Through another man's obedience, Jesus Christ, our death sentence was commuted to a "life" sentence.

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The Last Adam

Through another man's obedience, Jesus Christ, our death sentence was commuted to a "life" sentence.

Our re-creation through Jesus, the head of a spiritual race, permanently altered our genetic code with eternal life.

Just as the first man's singular act of disobedience—eating from a forbidden tree—had the universal effect of trumping life with eternal death, so the last man's singular act of obedience—dying on a disgraceful tree—trumped death with eternal life for all who believe.



“If death got the upper hand through one man’s wrongdoing, can you imagine the breathtaking recovery life makes, sovereign life, in those who grasp with both hands this wildly extravagant life-gift, this grand setting-everything-right, that the one man Jesus Christ provides?”

~Romans 5:17

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The Practical Value of Romans 5:12-21

1. This passage tells us how God really feels about sin!

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The Practical Value of Romans 5:12-21

1. This passage tells us how God really feels about sin!

Sin is just as damnable today as it was when Adam and Eve sinned.

Every sin I commit is just as worthy to be the source of the damnation of the whole human race today as it was in the Garden of Eden.



The Practical Value of Romans 5:12-21

2. This passage tells us just how magnanimous is the grace of God!

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The Practical Value of Romans 5:12-21

2. This passage tells us just how magnanimous is the grace of God!

Adam's one sin condemned the whole human race, but God gathered up every sin and graciously crucified them with Christ so that we might be made right with God.

The only thing that is more powerful in the heart of God than His hatred of sin is His love of the sinner.



The Practical Value of Romans 5:12-21

3. This passage tells us that the same solidarity which ruined us in Adam causes us to reign in Christ.

“For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.”

~Romans 5:17



The Practical Value of Romans 5:12-21

3. This passage tells us that the same solidarity which ruined us in Adam causes us to reign in Christ.

“Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. Now you’re free from your slavery to sin, and you’ve become slaves to righteous living.”

~Romans 6:17-18



The Practical Value of Romans 5:12-21

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~Romans 6:17-18

We have power and authority by God’s grace over sin; we are no longer a victim but a victor over sin and more than a conqueror even in death.



“So that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

~Romans 5:21

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- Verse 1: “Through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Verse 9: “Saved from God’s wrath through Him.”
- Verse 10: “Reconciled to God through the death of His Son...saved through His life.”
- Verse 11: “We rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”
- Verse 15: “The gift came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ.”
- Verse 17: “We shall reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.”
- Verse 21: “Through Jesus Christ our Lord.”



Through Christ Jesus

In Christ, grace met sin head on and defeated it.
Because of my solidarity with Christ, grace is now
the controlling reality of my life!

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Through Christ Jesus

In Christ, grace met sin head on and defeated it. Because of my solidarity with Christ, grace is now the controlling reality of my life!

Now that grace and life reign in me through Christ Jesus, sin and death do not stand a chance!

