

Romans 5.12-21

One or the Other

ICF joy mtg people all around world / when we meet / think of some association
 VERY OFTEN IT IS A LEADER of the Land – Past or Present – Politics, Sport
 FAMOUS PERSONALITY REPRESENTS the Land – in our minds anyway

THAT IDENTIFICATION with LEADERS – has Biblical precedent
 World INFLUENTIAL LEADERS: Bush, Putin, Jiang, Husein, cousin Tony
 Blair

BUT IN GOD’S EYES THERE ARE TWO MEN ONLY
 2 Represent NOT only THIS GENERATION / BUT ALL PEOPLE, ALL TIME
 Either you are Represented before God by Adam or by Jesus – Word “one” 11
 X’s

THOMAS GOODWIN – 17th C College President at Oxford University
 “there are 2 men – Adam and Jesus Christ – and these 2 men have all other men
 hanging at their girdle strings”

PLACE IN ROMANS – for 5 chapters Paul PRESENTED a SHARP
 CONTRAST

5.1 & 12 “Therefore” > Depth of Human Depravity to the Heights of Divine
 Grace

2 COMMUNITIES / 2 DESTINIES – Condemned Sinners & Forgiven Sinners

NOW PAUL FOCUSES ON the HEADS OF THOSE 2 COMMUNITIES – A &
 J

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT BUT RATHER DIFFICULT PORTION

1. The First and Last Man 2. How they are Different 3. How they are Alike

1. The First and Last Man v. 12-14

v. 12 UNCOMPLETED SENTENCE / Assumes 2 Truths about Man
 EVERYONE SINS / EVERYBODY DIES > even secular man will confess

PASTOR IN HAWAII – woman came in office – never seen before, never since
 “God told me I am not going to die” > GOOD FOR YOU! ~ Then She Left

v. 12 TOPIC – Sin & Death / Why is it Universal? > 3 Downward Steps
 Deteriorating Stages in Human History > One man sins > ALL PEOPLE DIE

a. Sin of ONE MAN – unnamed, but clearly a reference to ADAM

NOT DISCUSSION of Origin of Evil > but How it Entered our World

ONE TRUTH THAT LADY IN HAWAII – had in sort of Distorted Way
WE were NOT CREATED TO DIE / DESIGNED TO LIVE FOREVER on
Earth

b. Death ENTERED WORLD thru Sin > Adam was doorway for World's Sin

6.23 “For the wages of sin is death”

1.32 “God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death”

c. Death Came to ALL MEN, BECAUSE ALL SINNED

Moves from Sin in ONE Man to PRESENCE in ALL MEN – Human Race

TWO IDEAS from the phrase > “because all sinned”

1. ALL follow Adam's bad example > WE SIN LIKE ADAM SINNED

3.23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

2. WE SINNED WHEN ADAM SINNED > Adam represented all Humanity

2nd Conclusion is Explained by vs. 13, 14

1. Before Mosaic Law > SIN WAS IN THE WORLD > Adam precedes Moses
v. 13 “for before the law was given, sin was in the world.”

2. No Law (Moses) there is No Law to BREAK > Sin not taken into Account
v. 13 “But sin is not taken into account when there is no law.”

SIN > English term from Archery / MISSED TARGET = Sin / No Target, No
Sin

LAW of Moses > DEFINES and IDENTIFIES Sin // like a TARGET's RINGS

3.20 “through the law we become conscious of sin”

3. DEATH REIGNED from Adam to Moses > BEFORE Law of Moses GIVEN

Even those who did not break specific commands/ like Adam / ALSO DIED

v. 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”

Genesis 5 > HEROES of FAITH > faithful line of Seth

“Adam lived 930 years, and then he died

Seth lived 912 years, and then he died.

Enosh lived 905 years, and then he died.

Kenan lived 910 years, and then he died.

LONG LIVES BUT SAME END / All Died because ALL SINNED in ADAM

NOT ALL DIE BECAUSE THEY VOLUNTARILY SIN > Infants die, and they do not voluntarily sin > THEY DIE BECAUSE THEY ARE BORN IN ADAM

Why do newborns have Cancer? Or have Colic?

v. 15 “the many died by the trespass of the one man”

5 X’s in 5 verses > UNIVERSAL DEATH attributed to Single, Solitary Sin

MARTYN LLOYD-JONES “God has always dealt with mankind through a head and representative. The whole story of the human race can be summed up in terms of what has happened because of Adam, and what has happened and will yet happen because of Christ”

Those from WEST > Solidarity & Guilt from Adam > Violates INDIVIDUALISM

Asians & Africans > more used to COLLECTIVE Solidarity > family, tribe, nation

Historian Franz Borkenau > Three Cultural Attitudes Toward Death

1. Death Accepting > Greeks > Socrates embraced death to escape to immortality
2. Death Denying > West > Anti-Aging Creams, Health Spas, Organic Foods
3. Death Defying > Judaism and Christianity

Judaism > Job > “I know that my Redeemer lives...I will see him”

Xtianity > Paul > “Where, O death, is your victory? Where is your sting?”

BUT THE MAIN ISSUE IS > what does the Scripture say?

1 Corinth 15.22 “For as in Adam all die > WHY? Because IN ADAM ALL SIN

Joshua > Israelite named Achan stole treasures from Jericho > devoted to God
NATION PENALIZED God: “Israel has sinned, they have violated my covenant”

FAMILY JUDGED – Achan and sons and daughters were publicly executed

REPRESENTATIVE PRINCIPLE – Abraham and Melchizedek

Hebrews 7.9,10 One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.

PARENTAL Proof > do not have to teach your children how to sin / learned well
WE SIN BECAUSE WE ARE ALREADY SINNERS

CROSS OF CHRIST > cannot wash our hands of responsibility // Pontius Pilate

Spiritual “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” > VERY MUCH
NOT ONLY AS SPECTATORS / BUT AS GUILTY PARTICIPANTS

HORATIUS BONAR > 19th C Scottish Hymn Writer -

“Twas I that shed the sacred blood; I nailed him to the tree;
I crucified the Christ of God; I joined the mockery”

5.14 “Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.” > COMING MESSIAH
LIKE ADAM / CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF A WHOLE HUMANITY

ADAM is only OT Person – EXPLICITLY CALLED A TYPE OF CHRIST

2. How they are Different v. 15-17

SIMILARITY BTWN CHRIST AND ADAM / ONLY SUPERFICIAL AT
BEST

Both have affected a great number of people by one deed.

STOTT “How can the Lord of glory, be likened to the man of shame, the Savior to the sinner, the giver of life to the broker of death? The correspondence is not a parallel, but an antithesis.”

a. NATURE of ACTIONS DIFFERENT v 15 “the gift is not like the trespass”

TRESPASS – Crossing over the Line > Going Further than God Allows

ACT OF SELFISH REBELLION > Ignoring Command > Acting on own desires

Genesis 2.16 “you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

BUT THEY WANTED TO EAT / INSISTED ON EATING = TRESPASS

GIFT – act of Self-Sacrifice / NO RESEMBLANCE to Adam’s Self-Assertion

v. 15 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!

b. IMMEDIATE EFFECT of their Actions was DIFFERENT

v. 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.”

STARK CONTRASTS – between result of acts of Adam and Jesus

Sin / Gift – Condemnation / Justification – One Sin / Many Trespasses

“Judgment” refers to JUDICIAL SENTENCE > results in “CONDEMNATION”

PRINCIPLE OF GRACE – REVEALED “gift followed many trespasses”

World would Expect > Many sins to bring more judgment than just one sin

CHARLES CRANFIELD “That one single deed should be answered by judgment, this is perfectly understandable: that the accumulated sins and guilt of all ages should be answered by God’s free gift, this is the miracle of miracles, utterly beyond human comprehension”

c. ULTIMATE EFFECT of 2 Actions DIFFERENT

v. 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.”

Contrast between “the one man” and “that one man”

End Results of their Actions > “Death” and “Life” /

KINGDOM LANGUAGE > WORD “Reign” 5 X’s

DEATH REIGNED > Lloyd-Jones “the world is a place of cemeteries”
DEATH is MAN’S KING > ALL MUST SUBMIT to his CONTROLLING
RULE

UNEXPECTED CONTRAST > NOT > Now Life Reigns
NOT MERELY AN - Exchange of Death’s Kingdom for Life’s Kingdom
“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”

HOW MUCH MORE phrase 5 X’s > ABUNDANT PROVISION OF GRACE

RECEIVE MORE THAN HUMAN RIGHTEOUSNESS OF ADAM
CLOTHED WITH VERY RIGHTEOUSNESS OF JESUS CHRIST

WE SING - “Jesus thy Blood and righteousness, my beauty are, my glorious
dress”

Radical Deliverance from Death > Change Places with It > NO longer
SUBJECTS

Rule over it death > “reign in life” / We are Kings with Christ RULING with
HIM
DEATH IS NOW PLACED UNDER OUR FEET / soon to be Destroyed Forever

UNDERSTAND PASSAGE > Know important theme lies behind Paul’s
Theology

UNION WITH CHRIST

2 Cor 5.14 “we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died”

JAMES STEWART Heart of Paul’s religion..key which unlocks secrets of his
soul

MURRAY “Union with X is the central truth of the whole doctrine of salvation”

AS HOTEL would NOT STAND W/out UNSEEN STEEL Structural SUPPORT
UNION WITH CHRIST > is Supporting Truth behind Doctrine of Salvation

God chose us IN X / God redeemed us BY CHRIST / God called us THRU X

5.10 “we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be *saved through his life!*” Gk “IN HIS LIFE”

Where did Paul get this idea of Union with Christ? > JESUS!

John 15.1,4 "I am the true vine...Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

John 6.35 "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.”

Matthew 26.26 "Take and eat; this is my body."

Matthew 7.29 “everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

FAVORITE PHRASE OF PAUL’S “In Christ” – “In Him” – “In the Beloved”

Concludes teaching about Marriage in Ephesians

5.32 “This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.”

GOD SEES US IN CHRIST > from Eternity Past to Eternity Future we are IN X
NO GREATER SOURCE OF JOY AND CONFIDENCE IN FAITH

3. How they are Alike v. 18 - 21

REPEATING OF SAME IDEAS – v. 18 begins with “CONSEQUENTLY”

CHANGE IN SENTENCE STRUCTURE v. 15-17 A: “not like”/ C: “much more”

v. 18-21 “just as...so also” > SEE BOTH PARALLELS AND CONTRAST

ONE ACT OF ONE MAN DETERMINED DESTINY OF MANY / echo of vs. 12

v. 18 IMMEDIATE RESULTS OF WORK / like v. 16 / Emphasis on Parallel here “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.”

“one act of righteousness” A REFERENCE TO CHRIST’S SAVING WORK
SONG OF MOSES AND THE LAMB

Revelation 15.4 “Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

LLOYD-JONES “Grace is superlative generosity”

JOHN MURRAY “God takes more pleasure in bestowing grace than in
executing
judgment”

C. HODGE “We have reason to believe that the lost shall bear to the saved no greater proportion than the inmates of a prison do the mass of the community”

APOSTLE JOHN WAS GIVEN A GLIMPSE INTO HEAVEN

“before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb”
Rev 7.9

CALVIN “If the fall of Adam had the effect of producing the ruin of many, the grace of God is much more efficacious in benefiting many, since it is granted that Christ is much more powerful to save than Adam was to destroy”

v. 19 NATURE OF ACTIONS / like v. 15 / again emphasis on parallel

v. 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.”

“Made” Sinners & Righteous = LEGAL DECLARATION not Moral Change

LLOYD-JONES “Look at yourself in Adam; though you had done nothing you were declared a sinner. Look at yourself in Christ; and see that, though you have done nothing, you are declared to be righteous. That is the parallel”

STINGING WORDS IN EARS OF SELF RIGHTEOUS JEWS

“the many” EVEN GENTILES “will be made righteous”

v. 20 NECESSARY DIGRESSION – what about Moses and the Law?

Perhaps there should be 3 Ages / marked by Adam, Moses, and Jesus
v. 20 LIT “the law came in alongside”/ COMPLEMENT not DISPLACE Plan

PURPOSE OF THE LAW “The law was added so that the trespass might increase”

LAW REVEALS SIN 3.20 “through the law we become conscious of sin.”

SHOCK TO JEWS > believed Law given to INCREASE RIGHTEOUSNESS

TRUTH > Law INCREASES SIN > Provokes Sin instead of Preventing It

v. 20b “But where sin increased, grace increased all the more”

J.B. PHILIPS “Though sin is shown to be wide and deep, thank God that his grace is wider and deeper still”

LIFE VERSE of John Bunyan > English Puritan preacher – “Pilgrim’s Progress”
Born 1628 / POOR FAMILY > Like Father a “tinker” > Repaired old pots & pans

Bunyan was greatly troubled by his sin: “It seems as if the sun that shines in the heavens does grudge to give me light, and as if the very stones in the street, and the tiles on the houses all bend themselves against me...I was unfit to dwell among them, or be partaker of their benefits, because I had sinned against the Savior”

AUTOBIOGRAPHY ENTITLED “Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners”

VERSE Teaches 1) Grace is not withheld because of sin / HUMAN Reaction

Consider Adam> Rebelled & Ate > Grace sought him out “Where are you Adam?”

GOD IS GRACIOUS > The Hound of Heaven > Relentlessly Seeks Out the Sinner

2) Grace NOT REDUCED because of Sin > Greater Sin > Saving Grace

JAMES BOICE “Grace is not something that is depleted as it covers our deficiencies. Furthermore, by grace God provides 100% of what is necessary for the salvation of 100% of the people He is saving. Grace is not doled out in proportion to our misdeeds. And God’s superabundant supply never runs dry!

ANOTHER MISCONCEPTION > God gave you 100% Grace at Conversion
 As you sin you begin to loose some grace > down a few % with every sin
 SO EVENTUALLY YOU ARE SOMETHING LESS OF A BELIEVER
 How are you doing? “Well I am pretty low on grace these days!”

GOD HATES SIN > He hates the sin in you > But He loves you more!
 And we will relentlessly work His superabundant grace in you to give you
 victory

OVER SIN – Small Victories in this Life / Ultimate Victory in His Presence
 IT is IN YOUR SIN that You WILL FIND GOD’S GRACE MOST
 ABUNDANT

LLOYD-JONES “Grace always gives, whereas sin always takes away”

ANY OTHER VIEW OF GRACE MAKES YOU A MISERABLE LEGALIST
 INSTEAD OF A JOYFUL, THRIVING, FORGIVEN SINNER!

CONTRAST BETWEEN TWO REIGNS “much more” 5 X’s

JOHN MURRAY “These two heads of humanity and the two parallel yet
 opposing complexes bound up with them are the pivots on which the history of
 humanity turns. God’s government of the race can be interpreted only in terms of
 these two headships and of the respective complexes which the heads set in
 operation. These are the pivots of redemptive revelation, the first as making
 redemption necessary, the second as accomplishing and securing redemption.”

v. 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”

REIGN OF GRACE > great summary of Blessings of Christ

Heb 4.16 “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we
 may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

THROUGH THE GRACIOUS MEDIATION OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD
 Same phrase ended last section / and will end Chs. 6, 7, 8

MARTIN LUTHER’S Great Hymn “A Mighty Fortress is our God”

“Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
 Were not the right man on our side, the man of God’s own choosing.

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is He,
 Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and He must win the battle”

CLOSE – some Feeling Uncomfortable, even Upset / want to be INDIVIDUAL

Do not want to be IDENTIFIED with Nation or Political Leaders / BE MYSELF

I did not meet many Ugandans who wanted to be identified with Idi Amin

CERTAINLY DO NOT WANT TO BE CONNECTED TO ADAM & HIS SIN

FAIR? – God should judge us all by what Adam did? Yes, wise and gracious

BEST OPPORTUNITY – Sinless world, no thought of rebellion, NO Sinful Nature

REJECT REPRESENTATIVE PRINCIPLE – REJECT THE CROSS / No Savior

MUSLIM – I am a man, no one will pay for my sins, I will pay for them

MYSELF

TRAGEDY – God will give him that opportunity > YOU CAN TOO

Have OWN CHANCE to Pass or Fail God’s Test of Perfect Obedience?

IF FAIL – No 2nd Chance – No Substitute for you / ANGELS FALL FOREVER

SAD REALITY – NO CHOICE / Birth > Connected to our First Father Adam

YOU DO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY to Connect with a Second Adam / Jesus

ADAM > Tested in a GARDEN surrounded by Beauty and Love

JESUS > Tempted in a Desolate Wilderness, Nailed to Cross by Hateful Sinners

ADAM > became a Thief and was thrown out of Paradise

DYING JESUS > forgave a Thief and invited him to enter Paradise

ADAM described by Paul here > Sin – Condemnation – Death

JESUS described by contrast > Righteousness – Justification - Life

ADAM’S TESTAMENT ends with a CURSE > Last verse of OT >

God says, “I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

JESUS TESTAMENT ends with a BLESSING > Last verse of NT >

“The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.”

CANNOT CHANGE DETAILS OF YOUR BIRTH

BUT GOD Invites you to RECEIVE NEW BIRTH > Child of God thru Faith in X

John 1.12 “to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”

SECOND AND LAST ADAM said – “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10.10

Romans 5.¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.