

11.8.15 Primer

The Point:

Although you died in Adam, you can be made alive in Christ.

Final Thought:

"Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men." Romans 5:18 ESV

Read:

[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. (Romans 5:12-19 ESV)

Summary from the ESV Gospel Transformation Study Bible:

Every human being is either in Adam or in Christ. We are all born in Adam, but God by his grace brings many into Christ. Whereas Adam's trespass led to death and woe, God's grace abounds through the free gift offered "by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ" (v. 15). The word "grace" occurs 21 times in Romans—six times in Romans 5 alone. This chapter marks a high point of Romans' teaching about grace. By God's grace, the "free gift of righteousness" can be dominant in our lives (v. 17). Condemnation for "all men" because of Adam is universal, but the availability of "justification and life for all men" (v. 18) does not mean universal salvation, as the next verse makes clear. It is by grace—received through faith—that Christ's obedience makes righteous "the many" (not "all"; v. 19). In the end, grace reigns over and among God's people

through the righteousness Christ won (v. 21). The result is eternal life through him—the strongest possible reversal of all the ills that came about through Adam.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What are the three stages of sin as described in Romans 5:12 and how have you seen them at work in your life and in the world around you?
2. According to Romans 5:12-14, how would people know sin was in the world before the law revealed it?
 - a. What does this teach us about sin?
 - b. Does this help to explain why the world is the way that it is?
3. Make a list of the implications of Adam's disobedience. Make a list of the results of Jesus' obedience.
 - a. How are you like Adam?
 - b. Go through the lists and look at how Jesus not only undid the results of Adam's sin, but went above and beyond to demolish them.
 - c. How does this make Jesus the true and better Adam?
4. Pastor Bill said, "Jesus was our representative (negatively) in the receiving of our punishment, but he was also our representative (positively) in that he obeyed on our behalf."
 - a. What does it mean that Jesus took our punishment?
 - b. What does it mean that Jesus obeyed on our behalf the same way that Adam disobeyed on our behalf?
 - c. How does this give you a deeper picture of the gospel?
5. In Adam, you are steeped in sin, a lawbreaker, declared guilty, sentenced to death and subjected to its authority. Simply put, you are utterly and completely condemned.
 - a. Do you believe this?
 - b. What does this reality compel you to do?
 - c. Can you do anything about it?
6. In Christ, you are perfectly obedient, having utterly and completely loved God and loved all created people. You are innocent, not guilty, and righteous. You are no longer a slave, but are a fellow king with Christ - reigning in life where as death once reigned over you. You are righteous, justified, free from all condemnation. You are alive. Forever.
 - a. Do you believe this?
 - b. Have you trusted in Christ alone to save you from your sins?