

ROMANS

STUDY 10 | Romans 5:12-21 (ESV)

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.

INTRO

FEDERAL HEADSHIP: *Federal headship refers to the representation of a group united under a federation or covenant.*¹

IMPUTE: *to ascribe to or charge (a person) with an act or quality because of the conduct of another over whom one has control or for whose acts or conduct one is responsible.*²

Federal headship and imputation are two key concepts in the book of Romans that come to bear on this week's passage. A good example of federal headship can be seen in our own federal government wherein our elected officials represent us and speak on our behalf. R.C. Sproul wrote, "Just as a federal government has a chief spokesman who is the head of the nation, so Adam was the federal head of mankind." But while this concept is not completely foreign to us, it remains challenging in the case of Adam, for we did not 'elect' him ... God did ... and it is this passive affiliation that has brought upon us the horrible curse of sin.

¹ Wikipedia

² Dictionary.com

Thankfully, Adam's curse is not the only gift passively imputed to us – Christ's righteousness is available to us in similar fashion, for we did nothing to achieve it. Whether we like it or not, we are chained to Adam's sin, but God has given a second Adam in Jesus Christ and His gift is more powerful, and far greater than the first!

STUDY QUESTIONS

(v.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

Q: What do you learn about the relationship of sin and death in this one verse? **

(v.15) 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.

The proof of sin's power having passed to all mankind is painfully and tangibly evident in the universality of death. But what about the proof of Christ's redeeming power???

Q1: What TANGIBLE proof did God give that Jesus' life and death on the cross was sufficient to atone for sin? (Hint: Acts 2:32-36, 10:39-43)

Q2: What INWARD proof has God given to ALL Christians (including those that didn't get to see and touch Christ's tangible, resurrected body) that Jesus is Savior and Lord?
(Hint: John 7:37-39; 14:26; 15:26)

Q3: What hope does Christ's resurrected, tangible BODY give us for His coming Kingdom?

Q4: What hope does the presence of God's SPIRIT within give us for the coming restoration?

** Taken for Redeemer Presbyterian Church's Romans Study Guide

Q5: Read Paul's commentary in 1 Corinthians on the importance of Christ's resurrection to the Christian faith, then express in your own words what Jesus' resurrection means to you personally.

1 Corinthians 15:14-19 – Paul the apostle

14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

What does Christ's resurrection mean to you personally?

(v.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.

(v.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.

Q: Compare these two verses and explain why death and condemnation have come to ALL MEN through Adam's sin, but life and justification have only come TO SOME through Christ's righteousness?

This passage teaches us that, if Christ is our representative, whatever is true of him in God's eyes is true of us.

Q: Do you agree with this statement? If it is true, how would it make a difference to your practical daily life?*

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ADDITIONAL READING

THE FOLLOWING SECTION IS TAKEN FROM “ADAM’S FALL AND MINE” BY R.C. SPROUL

The federal view of the Fall still exudes a faint odor of tyranny. Our cry is, “No damnation without representation!” Just as people in a nation clamor for representatives to insure freedom from despotic tyranny, so we demand representation before God that is fair and just. The federal view states that we are judged guilty for Adam’s sin because he was our fair and just representative.

Wait a minute. Adam may have represented us, but we did not choose him. What if the fathers of the American republic had demanded representation from King George and the king replied, “Of course you may have representatives. You will be represented by my brother!” Such an answer would have spilled even more tea in Boston Harbor.

We want the right to select our own representatives. We want to be able to cast our own vote, not have somebody else cast that vote for us. The word vote comes from the Latin votum which meant “wish” or “choice.” When we cast our vote, we are expressing our wishes, setting forth our wills.

Suppose we would have had the total freedom to vote for our representative in Eden. Would that have satisfied us? And why do we want the right to vote for our representative? Why do we object if the king or any other sovereign wants to appoint our representatives for us? The answer is obvious. ‘We want to be sure that our will is being carried out. If the king appoints my representative, then I will have little confidence that my wishes will be accomplished. I would fear that the appointed representative would be more eager to carry out the wishes of the king than my wishes. I would not feel fairly represented.

But even if we have the right to choose our own representatives, we have no guarantee that our wishes will be carried out. Who among us has not been enticed by politicians who promise one thing during an election campaign and do another thing after they are elected? Again, the reason we want to select our own representative is so that we can be sure we are accurately represented.

At no time in all of human history have we been more accurately represented than in the Garden of Eden. To be sure, we did not choose our representative there. Our representative was chosen for us. The one who chose our representative, however, was not King George. It was almighty God.

When God chooses our representative, he does so perfectly. His choice is an infallible choice. When I choose my own representatives, I do so fallibly. Sometimes I select the wrong person and am then inaccurately represented. Adam represented me infallibly, not because he was infallible, but because God is infallible. Given God’s infallibility, I can never argue that Adam was a poor choice to represent me.

The assumption many of us make when we struggle with the Fall is that, had we been there, we would have made a different choice. We would not have made a decision that would plunge the world into ruin. Such an assumption is just not possible given the character of God. God doesn't make mistakes. His choice of my representative is greater than my choice of my own.

Even if we grant that indeed we were perfectly represented by Adam, we still must ask if it is fair to be represented at all with such high stakes. I can only answer that it pleased the Lord to do this. We know that the world fell through Adam. We know that in some sense Adam represented us. We know that we did not choose him to be our representative. We know that God's selection of Adam was an infallible selection. But was the whole process just?

I can only answer this question ultimately by asking another question — one the Apostle Paul asked. "Is there unrighteousness in God?" The apostolic answer to this rhetorical question is as plain as it is emphatic. "God forbid!"

If we know anything at all about the character of God, then we know that he is not a tyrant and that he is never unjust. His structure of the terms of mankind's probation satisfied God's own righteousness. That should be enough to satisfy us.

EXERCISE

JESUS IS THE BETTER ADAM

Paul's main message in the passage this week is that Jesus is the better Adam and that He is Lord of all. When reading the Bible through this proper understanding of Jesus' divinity, we see things anew. We see that the Bible is not primarily about us, but rather about God's redemptive story and most importantly the hero of that story, Jesus. We also begin to see Jesus reflected in nearly every story as the better provision of grace. Watch the following video from a Tim Keller sermon and reflect how in Jesus we have received the better version of each of the following...

Watch

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkNa6tLWrqk>

Reflect

Jesus is the true and better **ADAM** who passed the test in the garden and whose obedience is imputed to us (1 Corinthians 15).

Jesus is the true and better **ABEL** who, though innocently slain, has blood now that cries out for our acquittal, not our condemnation (Hebrews 12:24).

Jesus is the true and better **ABRAHAM** who answered the call of God to leave all the comfortable and familiar and go out into the void "not knowing whither he went!" to create a new people of God.

Jesus is the true and better **ISAAC** who was not just offered up by his father on the mount but was truly sacrificed for us. While God said to Abraham, “Now I know you love me because you did not withhold your son, your only son whom you love, from me,” now we can say to God, “Now we know that you love me, because you did not withhold your son, your only son, whom you love, from me.”

Jesus is the true and better **JACOB** who wrestled and took the blow of justice we deserved, so we, like Jacob, only receive the wounds of grace to wake us up and discipline us.

Jesus is the true and better **JOSEPH** who, at the right hand of the king, forgives those who betrayed and sold him and uses his new power to save them.

Jesus is the true and better **MOSES** who stands in the gap between the people and the Lord and who mediates a new covenant (Hebrews 3).

Jesus is the true and better **ROCK OF MOSES** who, struck with the rod of God’s justice, now gives us water in the desert.

Jesus is the true and better **JOB**, the truly innocent sufferer, who then intercedes for and saves his stupid friends (Job 42).

Jesus is the true and better **DAVID**, whose victory becomes his people’s victory, though they never lifted a stone to accomplish it themselves.

Jesus is the true and better **ESTHER** who didn’t just risk losing an earthly palace but lost the ultimate and heavenly one, who didn’t just risk his life, but gave his life to save his people.

Jesus is the true and better **JONAH** who was cast out into the storm so that we could be brought in.

Jesus is the real **PASSOVER LAMB** – innocent, perfect, helpless, slain so the angel of death will pass over us.

He is the true **TEMPLE**, the true **PROPHET**, the true **PRIEST**, the true **KING**, the true **SACRIFICE**, the **LAMB**, the **LIGHT**, the **BREAD**.