

D. Provided Righteousness Contrasted (Romans 5:12-21)

The Doctrine of the TWO MEN

1. Introduction: Paul’s question: “How can ONE MAN provide R+ for so MANY?” Paul answers that question with an analogy to Adam. (Ro.5:14b- Second Adam, I - Cor.15:47) It is an antithetical analogy. The only similarity is that ONE MAN affected so MANY. There is great difference in the content of their works and the subsequent result.

“ONE” is prominent: 12X in this passage. Other notable phrases are “REIGN of DEATH,” “REIGN of LIFE,” “MUCH MORE.”

Key thought: when God looks upon the human race, He sees but two men—Adam and Christ. Every human being is either "in Adam" and lost, or "in Christ" and saved; there is no middle ground.

ONE MAN – Adam 1Co 15:21 For since by man came death....	ONE MAN - Christ ...by man came also the resurrection of the dead
Disobedience, 19	Obedience, 19
Sin, 12 ,16, 19	Righteousness, 17, 18, 19
Death, 12,17	Life, 17, 18
Condemnation, 16, 18	Justification, 16, 18
Judgment, 16, 18	Grace, 15, 17
Offence, 15, 16, 17, 18	Free gift, 15, 16, 17, 18

2. What happened to Adam?
God set Himself apart from Adam by giving Adam one restriction. It was a test of submission. Adam failed. He trespassed God’s command.

a. The entrance of sin and death through Adam (v.12-14)

Death: Separation
1. Spiritual Death
2. Physical Death
3. Eternal Death

(1). Sin came by one man—Adam (v.12a) All acted when Adam acted. He now had a corrupted nature, and like a nose, eyes, ears he passed on a corrupted nature to you and me.

(2). Adam's nature of sin and death passed to all (v.12b) .

What Paul is teaching here is the **unity of the human race** in Adam (see Acts 17:26 – blood = race, stock; one = Adam) When he says in v. 12 that "all ~~have~~ sinned" he means that all of us sinned in Adam when he sinned. We are identified with him as the "head" of the human race, and his sin is our sin, his death is our death. Paul's argument in v. 12-14 goes like this:

We all know that a man dies if he disobeys God's law. (v.12; Ge. 2:17)

But there was no law from Adam to Moses, yet men died! (v.13, 14 a)

Solidarity of the Human Race.
See Achen’s penalty. His whole family suffered.
Amorites, Hittites, Hebrew Nation, etc

We know that Adam died because he disobeyed a divine law; but the generations from Adam to Moses did not have such a law to disobey. (v. 14 b)

Then death must be from another cause, and that cause is **Adam's sin**.

Because we are born "in Adam," **we inherit his sin and condemnation**.
Hebrews 7:10 – Levi was in the loins of Abraham.

(3). Adam's real importance: A type of Christ, cp. 1 Cor. 15:22, 45-49 (v.14)

b. The counteraction—the reversal—of sin and death by Christ (v.15-18)

But in His grace, God has given a "Last Adam," a new "Head" who has by His death undone all that Adam did in his sin. (I Cor. 15:21-22) Paul now presents several contrasts between salvation and sin:

(1). Adam's sin brought death; God's gift brought righteousness (v.15)

(2). Adam's sin brought condemnation; God's gift brought justification (v.16)

(3). Adam's sin brought the reign of death; God's gift brought the reign of life (v.17)

(4). Adam's sin brought condemnation to all men; God's gift brought justification and life to all men (v.18)

c. Conclusion (v.19-21)

The whole transaction is summarized in v. 20; in the new creation (2 Cor. 5:17, being "in Christ") sin no longer reigns, grace does! Death does not reign, life does! And we reign in life! "Christ... has made us kings and priests to God" (Rev. 1:5-6,).

a. Adam's disobedience made many sinners, but Christ's obedience made many righteous (v.19)

b. The law was given to point out and magnify sin, but God's grace was so much greater (v.20)

c. Sin reigned to death, but God's grace reigns to eternal life—through Christ's righteousness (v.21)

Now, the important question is this: Am I "in Adam" or "in Christ"?

Bibliography

The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Walvoord & Zuck. The Bible Exposition Commentary, Warren Wiersbe; ROMANS, The Gospel of God's Grace, Alva McClain; Romans Verse By Verse, William Newell; Romans - Preachers Outline and Sermon Bible – Commentary.

Humans are a race.
Angels are not a race. They were created individually.
There is no redemption for angels.