

In Adam or In Christ

Sermon 13 in the Romans Series

Romans 5:12-19

“In 5:1-11 Paul explained the many blessings that flow from Justification by faith. Following this explanation...he picks up again the main theme running through 3:21, that is, that these are no distinctions between Jews and Gentiles in the manner of salvation, or more precisely as 5:12-21 is concerned, that Christ’s death has humanity-wide implications... The only similarity between the act of Adam and the act of Christ is the humanity-wide effects of each one.” Colin Kruse

I. The Reformed View of the Passage (Covenant Theology)

1. There is a federal headship in Adam – in the garden he stood in our place.

As our Federal Head, Adam represented you and I.
He represented all the human race.

2. We were In Adam when he sinned.

In a sense, physically we were all in Adam when he sinned.
This is much like the Hebrew writer argues in **Hebrews 7:9-10**
⁹Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak,
¹⁰for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

3. When Adam, we fell.

4. As there is a line of Adam, so there is a line of Christ

As in Adam all die.
Even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Everyone in the line of Christ is a child of God, by adoption.

Thomas Goodwin, *“In God’s sight there are two men -- Adam and Jesus Christ -- and these two men have all other men hanging at their girdle strings.”*

II. Adam’s One Sin brought sin and death upon all -- 5:12-14

- A. God’s special creation of Adam & Eve is a cardinal doctrine
- B. The universal reign of death v. 12
- C. Because all sinned (in Adam) v. 12

Five times in this passage this is made clear. vv. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19

D. The Proof that all are under sin because of Adam v. 13-14b

Adam would go on to commit many sins in the course of his long lifetime – but it was this one act changed everything.

In verse 14 – transgression is singular

Adam had a specific sin he must avoid. From Adam to Moses there was not a specific sin(s) – but sin in general – proven by the universal reign of death. .

John Murray

1. Adam had a special revelation from God – do this and live, do that and die.
2. Adam lived under that law. .
3. Death reigned because of the broken commandment.
4. All men did not perfectly know the specific commandments before they were revealed through Moses, yet men still died.
5. The only sin that can account for this universality of death is the sin of Adam and our participation in that sin.

“We are not sinners just because we sin, but we sin because we are sinners, born with a nature enslaved to sin.”

III. Adam as a Type of Christ 14c-19

- A. Adam called a type of Christ in regard to imputation -- v. 14c?

Adam vs. Christ

- B. We gain more through Christ than we ever lost in Adam – v. 15

- C. Why use the words “many” and “all?” vv. 15-19

In using these terms, many and all, Paul is not concerned with “the numbers” but with the comparison and force.

- D. Because of justification, our participation in Christ’s righteousness is Just as real as our participation in Adam’s sin. -- v. 19