

Representative Sin (Part 1)

Introduction

-Romans 5:12-21 explains how the whole human race came to be fallen, depraved, and under the wrath of God (chapters 1-3). It also introduces the subject of union with Christ (chapters 6 and 7). It shows that believers have the same relationship now to the Lord Jesus Christ that they had to Adam before they believed.

-Definition of Terms

1. Representative Sin: our commission of Adam's first transgression
2. Original Sin: our inherited sinful character, our evil nature (Ps. 51:5)
3. Actual Sin: our commission of particular transgressions.

I. Human Solidarity

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."*

A. The Fact of Human Solidarity (Romans 5:18; 1 Corinthians 15:22)

B. The Nature of Human Solidarity

-Our union with Adam is not only biological and communal but also representative.

C. The Implications of Human Solidarity

-Adam's record and character are simultaneously conveyed to us in our life history at conception upon the grounds of our commission of Adam's sin, in vital representative union with him, in his life history, in the Garden of Eden.

-Christ's record and character are simultaneously conveyed to us in our life history at conversion upon the grounds of our execution of Christ's obedience, in vital representative union with Him, in His life history, in Palestine.

Practical Lessons

1. This passage speaks directly to the ethics of modern medical practice.
2. This passage confronts us with a choice between God's Word and merely human ideas.
3. This passage exhibits the astounding mercy, grace, and love of God to undeserving sinners.