

**PEOPLE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE
PART 1-ADAM'S NEGATIVE IMPACT
ROMANS 5:12, 19; GENESIS 1, 2, 3**

Introduction

There are a multitude of examples across history of individuals who either made a POSITIVE impact or a NEGATIVE impact on others by their WORDS OR ACTIONS! I will just mention a few:

Positive Impact:

Albert Einstein...the genius scientist. His theories of relativity were a very significant scientific breakthrough.

Helen Keller...who despite her condition of both deafness and blindness, learned to read and write, and helped to improve the welfare of the deaf and blind.

Winston Churchill...Who in the worst moments of 1940, when the Nazi war machine looked invincible as it swept through Europe, inspired the free nations to keep alive the fight against the tyranny of Hitler's Germany.

Sir Isaac Newton...One of the greatest scientists of all time who led the foundation of modern physics with his development of theories on gravity and mechanics.

Louis Pasteur...the French scientist who found many important improvements in medical science—such as a vaccination for Rabies, and a safe way to pasteurize milk.

And there are so many others we could name! All I would have to do is name their name and you would recognize them as someone who made a positive difference in their lifetime that benefitted many!

Negative Impact:

Adolph Hitler...the fascist dictator of Nazi Germany who was responsible for the deaths of over 17 million people (6 million Jews) in World War II!

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Mao Zedong...One of the communist leaders of the Republic of China beginning around World War II who, in his first five years, killed about 4 to 6 million people by indiscriminately sentencing them to death. His policies also starved about 20 million more and on top of that he had numerous enemies of the state executed.

Others we could mention such as Lenin...Stalin...Idi Amin

Think of where we would be today WITHOUT some of these ones that I call: ***“PEOPLE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE!”***

We can't always fathom that **what we say** and/or **what we do** can sometimes have a great impact either POSITIVELY or NEGATIVELY on others!

Understand that there are some folks that had a GREAT IMPACT on others without having a recognizable name themselves.

The names of many Sunday School teachers are written on God's honor roll although few people in this world have ever heard of their names. Usually their pupils are the ones that are remembered. We remember the name of one such as **D.L. Moody** who had such a great positive spiritual impact on millions! Who was the Sunday School teacher who talked with him about Christ in the back room of his uncle's shoe store? It was **Edward Kimball**.

We can't always fathom the great impact—either POSITIVELY or NEGATIVELY—that our lives can have on others!

Let me share a few quotes:

“Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.” - William James

“We must remember that one determined person can make a significant difference, and that a small group of determined people can change the course of history.” - Sonia Johnson

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Now, in a series of messages I want us to look at **PEOPLE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE!**

We go all the way back to the Garden of Eden to begin with! **Read our Text!**

Who is this one man? Paul didn't have to name him because his readers were familiar with his name as we all should be. ADAM!

I. WE SEE THE SINGULAR ACT THAT MADE SUCH A FAR REACHING IMPACT— THE ACT OF DISOBEDIENCE!

A. Adam Was Created In The Image Of God! (Gen. 1:26-27)

Being made in the "*image*" of God means, in the simplest terms, that **we were made to resemble God.**

Adam did not resemble God in the sense of God's having flesh and blood. Scripture says that "*God is spirit*" (John 4:24).

The image of God refers to the immaterial part of man—the part of us that no one can see—Our soul and spirit! The real you!

That is what sets man apart from the animal world and what fits him for the dominion God intended him to have over the earth (Genesis 1:28)! It also enabled man to commune with God! That is until sin entered in and man became spiritually dead!

It is a likeness of God mentally, morally, and socially.

Mentally, man was created with the ability to reason and choose! This is a reflection of God's intellect and freedom.

Anytime someone invents something, writes a book, paints a painting, plays in a symphony or any number of other things we could talk about, they show that they are made in God's image.

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Morally, man was created in righteousness and perfect innocence, a reflection of God's holiness. God saw all He had made (man included) and called it "***very good***". (Gen. 1:31)

Our *conscience* or "***moral compass***" is a leftover from that original state of mankind. Whenever someone writes a law, recoils from evil, praises good behavior, or feels guilty, he is confirming the fact that we are made in God's own image! (Something the atheist doesn't get!)

Socially, man was created for fellowship. This reflects God's triune nature and His love! God made the first woman because He said "***it is not good that the man should be alone***" (Genesis 2:18).

But in the Garden of Eden, man's primary relationship was with God! (Genesis 3:8 implies that there was a close fellowship with God prior to man's fall!) And even now, after man's fall, every social relationship we enjoy still demonstrates the fact that we are made in the likeness of God!

Adam Was Created In The Image Of God...

B. Adam Was Created In Innocence! (Genesis 2:25)

By innocence I mean an "*untested*" sinless man in a world created by God that was "*very good*" in every respect!

Part of being made in God's image is that Adam had the capacity to make free choices.

C. Adam Was Given One Law To Obey! (Genesis 2:16-17)

It is the LORD God's prerogative to set laws for mankind, after all He is the Creator of mankind! He can do as He see's fit!

Think of Laws as being boundaries that are set by God **that are for our good!**

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It is the LORD God's prerogative as to what laws to set and why! In this instance God was simply testing man and that is His prerogative!

D. Adam Disobeyed The LORD God! (Genesis 2:6)

Although he was given a righteous nature, Adam made an evil choice to rebel against his Creator.

Simple disobedience to THE law of the LORD God that he had been given!

II. WE SEE THE PERSONAL IMPACT OF THIS SINGULAR ACT!

Adam and Eve both marred the image of God within themselves and brought the consequences of disobeying God's law on themselves!

A. There Was A Physical Penalty!

1. It Impacted Their Physical Comfort! (Gen. 3:16-19)
There was the lasting impact of the curse!

2. It Impacted Their Home! (Gen. 3:22-24)

3. It Impacted Their Family!

a. The Perfect Husband/Wife Relationship Was Shattered!

**b. Later It Affected All Their Decendents!
(Cain and Able...Seth...even those not named
all the way down to our day and time!)**

4. It Impacted Their Very Lives! (Genesis 5:5)

For Adam it was 930 years of enduring the misery that he had caused by his sin and then he died!

We are not told how long Eve lived or how many children she bore...but she too was constantly reminded!

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There Was A Physical Penalty...

B. There Was An Emotional Penalty!

1. They Lost Their Innocence! (Genesis 3:7)

2. They Lost Their Confidence! (Genesis 3:8-10)

3. They Lost Their Honor! (Genesis 3:11-13)
(Adam blamed his wife directly while blaming God!)

C. There Was A Spiritual Penalty!

1. Immediate Loss Of Fellowship With God!

2. Immediate Loss Of Spiritual Life!

a. Spiritually Dead! (Ephesians 2:1)

b. Condemned! (John 3:18)

3. Immediate Need Of God's Provision! (Gen. 3:21)

4. Immediate Need Of Spiritual Insight! (Gen. 4:1)

III. WE SEE THE GREATER IMPACT OF THIS SINGULAR ACT!

A. Because Of Adam's Sin, We Are Born Spiritually Dead!

Adam not only marred the image of God within himself, but he passed that damaged likeness on to all his descendants!
(Romans 5:12)

Romans 5:19 "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners..."

Many were made sinners! How many? All...that is every one except the God-man, Jesus Christ!

Romans 3:10 and 23 make it clear that there are none righteous and we are all sinners!

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Because Of Adam's Sin, We Are Born Spiritually Dead...

B. Because Of Adam's Sin And Our Sin, We Must Deal With Both Sin's Curse And Death!

Today, we still bear the image of God (James 3:9), but we also bear **the scars of sin! Mentally, morally, socially, and physically, we each show the effects of sin in our lives!**

**IV. THERE IS HOPE IN ONE OTHER WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE FOR US— THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!
(ROMANS 5:15-21)**

Christ came to undo what sin has done to man! Primarily by providing a payment for man's sin—DEATH! He did that by becoming our sacrifice for sin! He took our place...He took our death!

The good news is that when God redeems an individual, He begins to restore the original image of God in their lives!

Ephesians 4:24 speaks of "...the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Day by day in the life of the believer is transformed more and more into the image of Christ!

2 Corinthians 3:18 – "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

And ultimately, when the believer goes home to be with the LORD, they are fully restored into the very image of Jesus Christ!

Romans 8:29 – "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son,..."

That redemption is only available by God's grace through faith in Christ's finished work for us! (Eph. 2:8-9)

Through faith in Christ, we are made new creations in the likeness of God! (2 Corinthians 5:17)