

Pt 16 Romans 5:12-21, Adam Killed Us All

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Romans 5:12-21

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

15 But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift. For if through the offence of one man be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

16 And not as *it was* by one that sinned, so *is* the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification.

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

This morning as we attempt to finish out this chapter, we come to some very deep stuff. I'll admit to you that I do not feel adequate to expound upon this text but nevertheless, I will lean upon the Lord for His help and guidance.

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Here in verse 12 it opens up with the word "**Wherefore**," meaning because of what Paul had just said in the previous verses, which was dealing with man's unrighteousness and the need to have peace with God and that peace being found only through the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, because of that, or **Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:**

It's no secret this "**one man**" Paul speaks of is the first created man – Adam, who was created on the 6th day of Creation in the image and likeness of God.

Genesis 1:26-27 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

We know that God is a Spirit, he is invisible, and no man has seen the Spirit of God at any time, however, throughout the Bible we are told of certain physical attributes of God, such as God's right hand, the arm of God, the eyes of God and so on.

However, God did appear in flesh when he took on the form of a man and was born in a manger in Bethlehem. We know him as Jesus in bodily form. The Hebrew writer calls him "**the express image of his person.**" Paul writing to the Church of Philippi said that Jesus was "**in the form of God.**"

Paul also wrote this in: **1 Timothy 3:16** And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. When you see the word "**mystery**" used in the New Testament it means an unknowable thing that has been made known. And the only way it is made known is if God chooses to reveal it to us. Where it says: **God was manifest in the flesh**, it is referring to the incarnate Christ. Without God revealing that to us in his Word, we would not know this.

But getting back to our text: this "**one man**" - Adam that we are talking about this morning was created in the image and likeness of God. That cannot be said about any other thing in Creation. Man was God's ultimate creation. Far above the earth and animals. I get really put out whenever someone tries to put man and animals on the same level. Man is much higher than some animal – I don't care how much you love your little dog or cat; they are still only animals. We are much higher than animals and the only thing higher than man is God.

The unique thing about Adam was that God created him with free will. He was given the ability to think and make up his own mind and make his own decisions. God did not create a robot or a minion but a living, breathing, thinking, human being. And, because of this free will, Adam was given the choice to obey God or disobey God – Adam chose to disobey God and instead obey his wife who was under the influence of Satan.

The very moment Adam took a bite out of that forbidden fruit, man became infected with a terminal disease. It is called SIN. This disease embedded itself into the genetic structure of human cells and became part of our DNA. In 6,000 years, no Doctor or Scientist has found a cure for this genetic disease. **...and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:** This disease is so powerful that it guarantees a death sentence.

Paul is speaking in universal terms – "**the world**" and "**all men.**" Not just one place or only a specific race of people – but all places and all races are infected by sin and the curse of sin which is death. I titled the message this morning; "**Adam Killed Us All.**"

13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Here Paul is explaining that sin didn't start when God gave the Law to Moses – sin was already in the world. For the human race it started with Adam. There are many examples of sin and death way before the Law was given. So, while those before the Law may not have broken the 10 Commandments (because they had not been written yet and thus unknown to man) the law of death because of sin has been around since the beginning when Adam sinned – and that is what he makes abundantly clear in the next verse:

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

So, from the first man, Adam until the Law was given through Moses, death reigned. To reign over something means that you are the King over it. Ultimately, Satan reigns in this world. He's referred to as the Prince of the power of the air: **Ephesians 2:1-3** And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

14b...even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, That word "**similitude**" means "**resemblance, or likeness.**" It is the same word we get the word "**similar**" from. Paul is saying that death reigned over all men despite the fact that they did not sin the same as Adam did. Adam was pre-warned what would happen if he ate of the fruit. **Genesis 2:16-17** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

God could not have been any clearer of what would happen. Adam knew this without a doubt and had even told his wife Eve the same exact thing because she recited it to the Serpent when he tempted her:

Genesis 3:1-6

1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, **God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.**

So, Adam and Eve both fully knew what God had said would happen if they ate of that fruit – they would die. But of course the serpent (Satan) the father of lies said this:

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, **Ye shall not surely die:**

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; **and he did eat.**

And he did eat – and he placed a death sentence not only on himself but every member of the human race for all eternity. **Adam killed us all.**

You may think, "*well, Eve sinned first so we should place the blame on her and not Adam.*" Oh no, my friend, listen to what the Bible says in **1 Timothy 2:14** And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

Listen, Eve did not purposely sin. Eve was tricked, or as the Bible says "**beguiled.**" **Genesis 3:13** And the LORD God said unto the woman, What *is* this *that* thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent **beguiled me**, and I did eat.

Also, in the New Testament, Paul in his letter to the Corinthians says: **2 Corinthians 11:3** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent **beguiled Eve** through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

So, Eve was tricked into eating the fruit, but Adam was not tricked, he was not deceived; he knew exactly what he was doing. He willingly sinned against God. He purposely disobeyed God.

I don't think it was because he thought the fruit would be so delicious that it would be worth it. I don't think it was because he thought he would become a God like the Serpent said. I think Adam willingly sinned because he knew Eve had already taken of the fruit and was now going to die and he ate of it to die along with her.

I don't think he understood the ramifications of his actions though. I don't think Adam understood that he would forever alter the course of mankind and place a sin curse on everyone; but that's exactly what he did. We are born with the sin gene built into us. Even that little baby that is so precious and has never committed a single sin, is born with the sin nature. Born into a fallen race.

The last part of verse 14 says ... *who is the figure of him that was to come.* Adam was a "**figure**" or "**type**" of him that was to come – him that was to come is referring to Christ, who is also called "**the last Adam**" and "**the second man.**"

Turn over to **1 Corinthians 15:21-22**

21 For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Now skip down to **1 Corinthians 15:45-49**

45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit.

46 Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

47 The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven.

48 As *is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy: and as *is* the heavenly, such *are* they also that are heavenly.

49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

The descriptions that Paul uses for the first and second Adam is very similar to the rest of our text this morning:

15 But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

16 And not as *it was* by one that sinned, so *is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification.

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21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

These two Adams share many similarities but with very different outcomes.

Adam was born without sin and so was Jesus – but Adam chose to sin and Christ did not.

Adam was the husband of his wife Eve which is a type of Christ and the Church. Adam's actions affected all mankind by bringing death and Christ's actions affected all mankind by bringing life.

When a man is born, he is born with Adam's nature which guarantees death.

When a man is born again, he is born with Christ's nature which guarantees life eternal.

There is so much more in all this that I cannot do it justice in this one message. We may need to come back to this again and look at it closer. But what you need to understand is the fact that because of the sin of Adam there is a 100% chance of death for all humans. **Hebrews 9:27** And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but *after this the judgment:* Latest statistics show that 10 out of 10 people will die. But there is a way we can be assured of eternal life – through Jesus Christ we can be saved from our fallen nature. Adam may have killed us all but through Jesus we can live.