



Adam and Christ

Romans 5:12-21

Something to Start Us Off

Have you ever thought about how one person's single decision or action affected many people—for good or for bad? What made that one act so powerful?

Something to Notice

Let's read Romans 5:12-21 slowly and mark a few phrases that tell us something important. Here are some that might stand out to us.

- 5:1 Try to find all the times the phrase "one man" appears in this passage. In the ESV it shows up eight times.
- Now look for the phrase "all men." It appears three times in these verses.
- 5:20 says, "Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more."
- By the way, look for two verses in this section besides 5:20 that use the "much more" or "all the more" logic that Paul likes to use.
- Finally, find the places where some form of the word "reign" appears.

Something to Learn

Key Insights:

* Adam's sin was not just personal—it was representative. Because he was the federal head of the human race, his disobedience affected everyone ("in Adam all die" – see 1 Corinthians 15:22).

Discussion Questions:

- The big things we want to be able to do after reading this passage are:
 - Describe the effects of Adam's sin upon us.
 - Describe what the work of Christ does for us.
 - Try to relate to how each of those factors affects us on a day-to-day basis.
- Where do you see "sin reigning in death" in the world around us or in your own life? How does the promise that "grace might reign" through Christ give hope?

Something to Take Home

- Memorize and/or meditate on Romans 5:19 this week. Let this truth remind you that your righteousness is not based on your performance but on Christ's perfect obedience.
- When you feel the weight of sin or failure, remember grace does not just cover sin—it reigns over it, leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.