

Romans Chapter 5 Part Two

INTRODUCTION

In the latter half of chapter 5 Paul continues his theme of making a case that our final salvation is certain through faith in Christ. In this section he makes a comparison between Adam and Christ. Adam brought sin and death into the world while Christ brought righteousness and eternal life.

Romans 5:12 - 21

12Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned--

The devotion of Adam and Eve were tested when God commanded they to stay away from a specific tree in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve disobeyed a direct command from God and the first sin entered the world. The result was spiritual and physical death, not just for Adam and Eve but also for all humans.

According to this verse death spread to all people because like Adam all people willfully sin. In this verse Paul repeats 2 points using four clauses to make this point.

PARALLELISM IN VERSE 12

A. Sin came into the world through Adam

B. With sin came death

B. Death spread to all people

A. Because all people sinned

The first point is that Adam sinned and his sin resulted in death. The second point is that like Adam we all have sinned and the result is that we all have died a spiritual death until the day we received new spiritual life from Jesus Christ. Paul's main point in this verse is that like Adam we all have deliberately disobeyed God.

13for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Adams' sin was a deliberate breaking of God's command. God made a law that Adam should not eat from a certain tree. The clause, "Sin was in the world" is a reference to the power or force that causes people to act independently of God and disobey him. All people are under the power of sin, and all people act in rebellion against God. The tendency of all people is to live a self-directed life rather than a God-directed life. In that way, sin was in the world immediately after Adam and Eve disobeyed God.

In this passage it also says that was not imputed when there is no law. What does that mean? Let me illustrate this point.

ILLUSTRATION – GUM IN THE VAN

Natalie loved to chew gum even as a small toddler. And one time Natalie got a hold of some chewing gum and brought it into the back seat of the van. We did not have a rule about gum. So Natalie was not breaking any rule and she was not being disobedient by chewing gum in the van. But as you can imagine things have changed. After finding gum smashed into the seat of the van we made a rule about gum in the van. After we made the no gum in the van rule Natalie would have been disobedient if she brought gum into the back seat of the van.

Before we had a law about gum in the van we could not hold it against her. Now that there is a law we can punish her for breaking the no gum law.

So also, if God makes ten rules, there are now ten specific ways that we can disobey God. All people after Adam had it in their heart to live the self directed life and disobey God. When God gave Moses a bunch of rules it made a number of specific ways to prove to people that they would rather do things their own way rather than God's way.

Therefore every rule in the bible is really a test from God to bring out any rebellion toward God that is in our heart. If there is a rule in the bible that we should not live together apart from marriage, that is a test to see if we are rebellious toward God and prefer the self directed life. If there are rules about getting drunk or using drugs or stealing or gossiping those are tests given to us to expose our rebellion toward God and expose the fact that we need Jesus to save us from our sin and we need Jesus to give us a new heart and new desires that line up with God's will for our lives.

14Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

Death reigned from Adam until Moses because even though Israel did yet exist or have all the regulations God would later hand out. All people have the tendency to live independent of God. All people at some level are rebellious toward God. That is why death reigned from Adam until Moses. All people are born with the promise of physical death and all people are born spiritually dead and must be made alive spiritually through Jesus Christ.

Paul uses the word "type" to describe Adam's role in history compared with Christ's role in history. Paul is going to use the next 4 or 5 verses to talk about how Adam represented all people as a type or pattern that is similar in some way to the way Jesus Christ represents all people. This is going to be our focus for the rest of our time together.

What is a "type"? There are several definitions of the word type. In this context the word type means a person who represents others. Adam was a representative of all people. His actions affected all people. Christ also

came as a representative of all people and his actions also affected all people.

ILLUSTRATION OF A TYPE OR REPRESENTATIVE

The Old Testament is loaded with types or patterns that point to something about Jesus Christ.

Abraham, when he was asked to sacrifice his promised son, Isaac served as a type or pattern of God the Father who would one day give up His Son as the ultimate sacrifice. David, as the godly king, served as a type of the ultimate King of Kings, Jesus Christ. Jonah's three-day experience in the belly of the fish served as a type of Christ's experience three days in the belly of the earth.

Paul says here that Adam is a "type" of Christ. He was an early representation of what Christ would totally fulfill. He pointed to Christ in some way. Adam was created in such a way that he pointed to what humanity was supposed to be like. Adam failed so Christ came and took up where Adam left off. Christ is called the second Adam. Christ, in showing God's ideal for humanity succeeded where Adam failed. Adam's perfect condition before his fall into sin is a type or pattern of Jesus Christ who was the perfect pattern for all humans.

A key text that tells us what God's intended pattern or type for humanity is ***Genesis 1:27 "God created man [Adam] in his own image, in the image of God he created him,*** God created man to be like God. He did not create Adam to **be** God--that is heresy. Adam was to be like God or "God-like," a word we have shortened to "godly" but it's the same idea. A godly person is a person who in some way shows others what God is like.

Before the fall, Adam and Eve glorified God, which means that they revealed God in their persons because they were like God in character. To be fully human is to be like God in character.

This is confusing to some because when some people sin they often explain their sin by saying something like, “*Well, that’s just my humanness, or my humanity coming out.*” When someone sins its not because they are human, it is because they are a fallen, sinful human.

To be human as Adam was before the fall is to be good, not evil. God created man and said it was “good.” To be “good” in God’s sight is to be magnificent in some sense. God created Adam and Eve to fully express humanity in its goodness and godlike-ness.

ADAM AND EVE’S MISSION (A RULING FUNCTION)

We see this purpose of Adam and Eve to be like God in at least two ways. We see this first in Adam and Eve’s mission. **Genesis 1:28** says the first couple was to “*...fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.*”

As creatures created to be godly in character, part of their responsibility was to **subdue and rule**. That’s what God does and it is only fitting that those who are created to be like God would do that as well. They were humans who were like God in their mission to subdue and rule. We know this is part of God’s plan for humanity because the book of the Revelation says in at least four places that redeemed humans will **reign with Christ** in the millennium and beyond. Redeemed humanity will fulfill the purpose of subduing and ruling originally initiated and then forfeited by Adam.

WORSHIP AND OBEY – (A PRIESTLY FUNCTION)

Another way we see Adam and Eve's godly purpose is seen in *Genesis 2:15*. "***The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.***" Some recent Hebrew scholarship by John Sailhammer of Trinity Seminary has shown that this mission contained in the phrase "to work it and take care of it" is actually better translated "to worship and obey" God. Some of the reasons for preferring that translation are complicated, but I think his arguments are compelling.

Here we have Adam and Eve created for the **priestly** function of worshipping and obeying God to go along with the **kingly** function of ruling and reigning. The primary work of the priest has always been, first and foremost, to worship and obey the Lord. That is what God created humanity to do and Adam was charged to do just that.

ADAMS MISSION – (SPIRITUAL LIFE)

Another way we can see Adam's mission to glorify God in his humanity is in *Adam's spiritual life*. In other words, how did Adam relate to God before the fall? We know from Genesis 3:8 that Adam had intense and intimate communion with God because God walked with Him in the cool of the day. The way we could characterize Adam's spiritual life before the fall is total and humble dependence upon God.

SUMMARY

We have learned that before the fall, Adam was the prototype of what God wanted you and I to be like. Where Adam failed to be our prototype, Christ succeeded.

We were created to rule. And today we can rule in that each time our king Jesus Christ tells us to do something we can walk that out in obedience and see the rule of Jesus Christ increase and extend further and further into our lives and positively affect our community.

We were created with a priestly function. To walk with God and worship him with our whole heart. To adore and love God and walk with him in the cool of day. And so show others how to find their way to God because we know that way through Jesus Christ.

And we were created with a spiritual function, to listen to the voice of the Spirit of God and meditate on His word and follow the lead of God for our lives. Fulfilling our spiritual function means living under the guidance of The Holy Spirit. The bible says; Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and He will make your path straight.

Today we have a great challenge. You were created for a great purpose. To be fully human mean to live for the purpose for which we were created, and that purpose is to reflect to this world what God is like. In Christ we can be made alive spiritually and in Christ we who live for him now will have our bodies raise from the dead to be glorified. Everything that the sin of Adam broke, Jesus Christ has fixed so that today, you can choose to live as a full human. Jesus Christ can give you the power to do what you were created to do, and that is living a godly life. To do so means you are fully human. To live any other way is beneath the purpose for which you were created.

TAKING IT HOME

1. Did you realize that Adam was a perfect type of a godly person before he sinned? Did you also realize that if you receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior you can show people in this world something of what God is like by the way you live and the way you love?
2. Do you want to live for a great purpose or a common purpose? Do you want to be God's representative to this world? Do you want your

life to make a difference? If you do, choose Christ and walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

3. Did you know that you were created with a ruling purpose, and priestly purpose and the spiritual purpose?
4. If you want to walk in those purposes will you practice letting Jesus Christ influence the world through you, and will you live out your priestly purpose by showing Christ to others, and will you live out your spiritual purpose by walking in humility and submission to God's will for your life?