

ROMANS 5

From Adam to Christ • Main focus: verses 12–21

Read the whole chapter together. Verses 1–11 recap what Christ has done for us; verses 12–21 explain the contrast between Adam and Christ. Bring a KJV Bible so you can mark Paul's repeated words.

Before we read: Who was Paul?

Paul was a Jew from Tarsus, a Roman citizen, a Pharisee, and a student of Gamaliel. Zealous for the traditions of his fathers, he persecuted the church. On the road to Damascus, the risen Jesus confronted him. The former persecutor became a preacher of Christ to the nations. [Read: Acts 9:1–6; 22:3, 28; Galatians 1:13–16.](#)

Romans 5:1–11 | A brief review

1–2 Justified by faith: peace with God and access into grace.

3–5 Tribulation → patience → experience → hope. God's love is shed abroad in our hearts.

6–11 While we were without strength, sinners, and enemies, Christ died for us. Through him we are reconciled to God.

Romans 5:12–14 | How sin and death entered

Through one man, Adam, sin entered the world, and death came through sin (v. 12). Sin and death were present before the Law of Moses (vv. 13–14). Adam is called a figure of the one to come: one man's action has consequences for many. See Genesis 3.

As you read verses 12–21, circle: one / one man • offence • gift • much more • grace • reign • life.
Ask: What changes as Paul moves from Adam to Jesus Christ?

Keep this question in mind: How can the act of one man affect many?

Notes & questions

THE ONE AND THE MANY

Romans 5:12-21 • Follow Paul's comparison

ADAM	JESUS CHRIST
One offence / disobedience	One righteous act / obedience
Judgment and condemnation	The free gift and justification
Sin and death reign	Grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life

Follow the argument

Verses 15-17: Paul repeats "much more." The gift and grace in Christ are greater than Adam's offence. Those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign in life (v. 17).

Verses 18-19: Paul contrasts one man's disobedience with one man's obedience, and condemnation with justification. Notice how "one" and "many" work together.

Verses 20-21: The Law makes the offence abound; where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. Sin reigned unto death; grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Words worth defining

Justification	God's declaration that a believer is righteous through Christ.
Grace	God's favor and gift, which we do not earn.
Transgression	Crossing a known command or boundary; Adam disobeyed a direct command (v. 14).
Offence	A trespass or violation; Paul uses it of Adam's act.
Imputed	Counted or charged to someone's account (v. 13).
Figure	A pattern or type; Adam points to Christ in the "one affects many" comparison.
Condemnation	A judgment of guilt; the opposite of justification here.
Reign / abound	Reign: rule. Abound: increase or overflow. Watch what reigns and what abounds.

Discuss together

1. What entered through Adam, and what comes through Christ?
2. Why does Paul emphasize "much more" when speaking of grace?
3. If grace abounds, should we continue in sin? Read Romans 6:1-2.

Main takeaway: Through Adam came sin and death. Through Jesus Christ come grace, righteousness, and life.