

A Great Change

There is no greater change than what God has done in us and for us. He transformed us from being a blasphemous depraved lot worshiping ourselves, (a cruel inversion of God's design for us to be in his image worshiping him alone,) into a repentant, humble people desiring God with his love in our hearts. We can finally enjoy what it truly means to be human. Even as we suffer, we follow in proven footsteps, glorifying God along the way in a dying world.

2 Kinds Of People

This section of chapter 5 shows us God's perspective of humanity. Earlier we considered that Romans shows how the gospel affects all aspects of life. Likewise, here we see that the death and resurrection of Jesus affects everyone who's ever lived. In God's eyes, all people are in 1 of 2 categories: dead in Adam or alive in Christ. It was God's wisdom to uphold the condemnation of Adam so he can conclude all righteous in Christ who believe. This unchanging truth is the solution to all we struggle with: The tomb is empty and the throne is occupied.

Chapter Highlights

VS 12

CHAPTER 5:12 - 3 THINGS TO CONSIDER

DEATH
ENTERED
THROUGH SIN

SIN ENTERED THE
WORLD BY ONE MAN
AND ONE ACT

DEATH SPREAD TO ALL
BECAUSE IN ADAM,
WE ALL SINNED

"Why does an ancient man's sin make me broken?" We are just like him. His rebellion affected everyone as it was passed down to all people. We all followed his headship, born into his state of sin. This can seem unfair to some, and yet what is truly unfair is the righteousness of Christ being credited to us when we have proven we don't deserve it. We don't choose the circumstances of our birth, but we must deal with the state we are born into. Yet, purely by grace, God offers a new birth and a new headship; we can choose to accept that.

VS 12 CONT.

We didn't choose to begin sin, but we quickly joined in the same. In our disobedient nature, we would have fallen just like Adam did.

For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me.

HOSEA 6:6-7 ESV

The question shouldn't be why does Adam's disobedience make me a sinner, but why was Jesus punished for **my** sin; he who knew no sin? This is the love of salvation's plan: undeserved grace. He bore our sins in his own body on the cross.

VS 13-17

This section marks a parenthetical insertion explaining how death passed to all men, and how the free gift perfectly restores all that was lost by the offense. Death reigned over everyone even if they didn't do exactly what Adam did. All people are lawbreakers just like Adam, even if it is the law of their own conscience as we saw in chapter 2. Adam is a figure/type of the one who was to come, and yet they're not alike at all. The grace Jesus brought abounds way beyond the guilt and shame we got from Adam. Yes, they both represent humanity, and Adam foreshadows Jesus, but Jesus is so much better than Adam, redeeming everything he ruined and more.

3 WAYS JESUS HAS VASTLY SURPASSED ADAM

THE DEATHLY OFFENSE
IS SURPASSED BY THE
GIFT OF GRACE

CONDEMNATION
IS SURPASSED BY
JUSTIFICATION

THE REIGN OF DEATH
IS SURPASSED BY THE
REIGN OF LIFE

They are alike in representation, but unlike in their accomplishments. In God's infinite wisdom, he planned that whatever happens to our head happens to all of us, so that he could save us all without merit in Christ. This "unfair" grace is God's justice; his good news to the world.

VS 18

Returning to the thought of verse 12, we see that as sin caused death to pass to everyone, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. What has won us is far superior to what harmed us. We cannot be unjustified because Jesus cannot be uncrucified. You can't be put back in the other category.

VS 19-20

Adam's disobedience is annulled by Jesus Christ's obedience. The law came to prove our trespass in Adam, but now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested (Romans 3:20). We should read the law and weep like king Josiah did for how short of God's standard we fall, but praise God that where the trespass abounded, grace abounded all the more! We can stop striving by works of flesh.

VS 9-11

"As sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." To reign means to exercise authority like a king over a kingdom. Every heart is under 1 of 2 monarchs in 1 of 2 kingdoms:

1. *Sin reigns as a king in a kingdom of death (physical, spiritual, and what leads to eternal death.) Sin is a cruel tyrant with an unrelenting grip on our lives.*

2. *Grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life. Grace is a kind, loving ruler in a kingdom of God's holiness, leading us into eternal fellowship with God and his Son.*

Conclusion

We will see in coming chapters how our walk in righteousness and our victory over sin should be affected by the category of human we're in. But first we must deeply appreciate that our Christian walk does not change our Christian standing. We must rest in the assurance of grace. We didn't qualify ourselves, and we can't disqualify ourselves. Even when we don't feel righteous, Jesus is still righteous, and it is his standing that we're credited with. All our future sins were forgiven the moment we were placed in Christ. If we, or anyone we love, walks away from God, they cannot go back to Adam. Even the grave cannot separate us from being in Christ. We sleep in Christ, not in Adam. So much more than Adam changed us, Christ changed us.

"Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home."

Romans

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