

## DEATH IN ADAM. LIFE IN CHRIST.

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### Romans 5:12-21 Sermon Outline

#### *Death in Adam but the Assurance of Life in Jesus*

1. *Heavenly Father, thank You for delivering us from our death in Adam where sin reigns into the assurance of life in Jesus through his obedience and where grace reigns. AMEN.*
2. Question: How would you group or categorize humanity? Race, ethnicity, language, country of origin? Jew and Gentile? Circumcised and uncircumcised? Believer and Unbeliever?
  - a. Answer: Those “in Adam” and those “in Christ”.
    - i. Those in Adam are spiritually dead, headed toward physical death, and look forward to eternal death in condemnation, but those in Christ are spiritually alive and are assured of future eternal glory in resurrected bodies. The death and despair of those in Adam are based on his disobedience in the Garden, but the assurance of those in Jesus is based on His obedience; because, we believe that Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification.
    - ii. Adam and Jesus are representatives: Adam of the Old Humanity with a Disordered Creation and Jesus of the New Humanity with a Re-ordering and Growing New Creation. Adam was the pattern or type of Jesus in his representative status. That is what is meant by *verse 14b (READ)*.
3. We are all born “in Adam” as humanity’s representative. There is “Death in Adam” because of his disobedience that led to humanity’s inherent separation from God’s wisdom and life; His divine attributes we need to receive and fulfill our ruling inheritance of the world.
  - a. **READ Verse 12** All humanity sinned “in and with” Adam when He disobeyed God’s command not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; because, he was the prototypical priestly

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and kingly representative of humanity. Therefore, we are born sinful and guilty in God's eyes because of Adam's disobedience. The result of Adam's trespass for us is death - both spiritual and physical.

- b. **Spiritual Death** (aka: Original Sin) – Because it has its “origin” in Adam's sin and speaks to the truth that every person born into this world is inherently spiritually separated from God's sustaining life and ruling wisdom. Therefore, we are inclined to ignorance and idolatry. This is our depraved self-centered and rebellious sin-nature apart from God. We sin because we are born sinners due to our separation from God on account of Adam's trespass in the Garden.
- c. **Physical Death** (Imputed Condemnation of Adam) – Adam's deserved condemnation for his trespass against God's command is reckoned, credited, counted to us; because, he is our representative. The judgment for Adam's disobedience was death, and we receive that sentence as well; because, we are inherently in Adam as human beings. That we die because of Adam's disobedience and not our own personal trespasses is articulated in *verses 13-14 (READ)*.
  - i. While actual/personal sin was in the world prior to the Mosaic Law, people died, NOT because of their personal transgressions against specific commands from God (as with the Adamic Prohibition to eat from the Tree or the Mosaic Law), BUT because of the imputation of Adam's sin and guilt to us as humans.
    1. Does this seem unfair to you, that we are born sinful and guilty in God's eyes because of Adam's disobedience? Is this really what the Apostle Paul is saying? Well, let's look more closely.
- d. **READ Verses 17-21 ONLY** regarding our status “in Adam”.
  - i. Summary: Verse 17 – death reigns through Adam's trespass Verse 18 – condemnation in Adam Verse 19 – Adam's disobedience made us sinners Verse 20 – The Law increases our trespasses, and Verse 21 – sin reigns in death.

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- i. "In Adam" is "the dominion of guilt/condemnation" where "sin reigns" in which all humanity naturally abides, and we need to be delivered from this dominion of death where sin reigns over our lives.
  1. Now, before we cry, "That's not fair" that we are inherently condemned and guilty because of Adam's trespass, let us consider just how we are savingly delivered from this dominion of guilt. Let us consider the...
4. ...Gospel **READ Verses 15-17** While Adam's condemnation is reckoned to us because of his disobedience, God's gracious gift of righteousness is reckoned to us because of our faith in the truth that Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification. Receiving God's abundant provision of grace and the gift of righteousness means we will reign in life through Jesus Christ Whose one righteous act of dying for our sins resulted in justification and life for all people. It is not because of anything we did. Through Jesus' obedience, alone, many will be made righteous by faith – many from all different people groups throughout the world. **READ Verses 18-19** It is all about what God did for us in and through Jesus. It is all by God's abounding grace, **READ verses 20-21**.
  - a. So, if it's not fair that we are condemned, sinful and dead in Adam because of his disobedience, then it's certainly equally unfair that we are justified and alive by simply believing in Jesus' obedience. Actually, it's not fair at all when we consider that, apart from Adam's disobedience, we have each personally compounded our own sins against God as trespasses against His righteous standards revealed to us **READ verses 16b, 20**. No, there is nothing fair about the Gospel; because, it is all about God's grace toward us out of His overflowing love, if only we would receive this gift. Those who do receive this gift by faith are gloriously transferred from the Dominion of Guilt where sin reigns in death into the Dominion of Righteousness where grace reigns in life.

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- b. By faith, we are righteous, reconciled and recipients of God's promise of freedom to serve Him as we were originally created to do - with the blessed assurance of life (physical and spiritual; future and present) – all because of Jesus' obedience that undoes Adam's trespass and its disastrous disordering consequences. Those who receive this work of Christ by faith are delivered from Death in Adam where sin reigns to Life in Christ where there is freedom from the tyranny of sin. This means the Believer in Jesus has spiritual life NOW to live freely by the leading of the Holy Spirit with the assurance of a gloriously resurrected physical life in the future; because, in Christ, grace reigns – not sin. How is that reality evident in your life? Are living as one who is spiritually alive today in Jesus by the guarantee of the Holy Spirit of God's love poured out into your heart? Are you living as a friend of your King Jesus in His Kingdom where grace reigns with the blessed assurance of future glory because of God's love for you – a love demonstrated in the work of Jesus to make you a citizen of His eternal Kingdom?
- c. May Christ's work be the basis for our hopeful assurance of future glory, and may that be seen in our present lives by the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.