

ROM 210 - Living in Adam or Living in Christ - Rom 5:12-21

We are on "The Bridge" right now
between the 1st part of Paul's letter &
the 2nd part - that we're about to "dive into" in the next 3 Ch's

After seeing God's perfect judgment in the first msgs
We then saw the miracle of justification by faith in last few msgs

Now - Paul is about to take us
from justification to sanctification - in the next 3 Ch's

God wants to do more than declare a believer righteous (Justification)
He wants to transform each of our lives (Sanctification)

But before we can go on to sanctification (*transformation of our lives*)
Paul wants to insure that we've graduated from Salvation 101

So he nails down, in today's text
the very heart of the Theology of God

We cannot advance in our Life with God
until this truth is rock solid in our minds

Today - what we really need to Understand
is the Theology of FEDERAL HEADSHIP

There is a Federal headship of Adam - &
There is a Federal headship of Jesus Christ . . .

& every single one of us
is living under either ONE or the OTHER Federal Head

Let's Pray

The Bible is very clear - about what *theologians* call the "Federal Headship" of **Adam** - & of **Christ**

From God's perspective

Adam is the head of all **physical** humanity

Jesus Christ is the head of all **spiritual** humanity

AND So - because of that . . .

Our **Sin Nature** comes to us solely THRU Adam, and

Our **New Nature** comes to us solely THRU Jesus Christ

Rom 5:18-19 is a summary of this great truth (*let's read the NLT*)

Rom 5:18-19 - NLT

18 Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.

19 Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

This is known as the "Federal Headship" of **Adam** & of **Christ**
& it's important we see it before we move into Sanctification

We must come to realize that we are

Truly One (United) with **Jesus Christ** - - but first . . .

We must come to realize that we are

Truly One (United) initially with **Adam**

Thru Oneness with **Adam** we are partakers of sin & death

Thru Oneness with **Christ** we are partakers of righteousness & life

The reason that's so **important** is

Understanding that our Sin Nature
comes **THRU Adam** . . .

Is **the basis** for understanding
that our Righteousness comes **THRU CHRIST**

That is actually **the core** of the salvation message

We are "By Nature" **united with Adam** - in Sin & Death

& so we MUST (by receiving a **New Nature**)
be **united with Jesus Christ** - in Righteousness & Life

& **Every Single one** of us must make that choice . . .

To either **remain** Living in Adam,
or to be **transformed** by Living in Christ

& **IN that choice** - is not only **salvation**
but is **also** - the beginning of **understanding**
of **HOW to live** - our New Life in Christ

Alright - Ro 5:12 starts with "The Federal Headship of Adam"

& In this **1st Vs.** - Paul **starts** a thought
that he doesn't really finish until **V.18**

Rom 5:12 - ESV → →

Rom 5:12 - ESV

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

Paul starts with The Fall of **Adam**

that caused sin and death to spread to **every** human being

Adam was the "Federal Head" of All Mankind

& because **Adam** represented **ALL** mankind - his one act of rebellion - **allowed sin** to permeate the entire realm of humanity

Again **V.12** says;

sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin,

But then **notice carefully** - it says;

and so death spread to all men because all sinned

The words – "**all sinned**" – are in the Greek aorist tense, which, in it's simple definition, means to us "**past tense**"

because ALL sinned - is not talking about past sins in our lives

it's **talking about** a Much More Important point

Here's the point - - & it's very important to understand our Salvation **IN CHRIST** . . .

Adam represented all mankind, & so
when Adam sinned – each **one of us** sinned “*in Adam*”
THAT'S why it says - ***because all sinned*** - - IN ADAM

Because **Adam** was our *Federal Head*,
It was as if **all of Mankind** was there with him

& the **root of sin** was *transmitted*
to **every member** of the human race

That is called the **Federal Headship** of Adam for all humanity

As Adam sinned (as our federal head) - We sinned "**IN**" Adam

That is a solid Biblical Truth that **must be grasped**
in order to understand **HOW God's theology** works

Adam's **sin NATURE** has been *passed down*
to **every person** that's ever lived

but **ALSO** (because of that sin nature),
every person who has **ever lived** (except Christ)
has **ACTED** on (& in) that *sin nature*

Rom 3:23 - ESV

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Nobody is "**Left Out**" - **ALL** have sinned
both "*In Adam*" & in *our own actions*

But we didn't even know how lost in Sin we were
until God's Law showed us - our Great Lostness

Rom 5:13-14 - ESV

13 *for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.*

14 *Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses (the proof of sin) , even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.*

Since the moment of Adam's fall

Sin, Death, & Separation from God

has been engrained in man's "Fallen Nature"

The effects of Adam's Sin has always been carried by mankind

But God's Law was needed

to Shine a Light on the True Sinfulness of that Sin Nature

God's Law reveals our sin to us

Like a Huge Light in a Dark Pit

So - Thru God's Law - we are FORCED

to acknowledge our union with 'Adam's Sin'

& God's Law FORCES us to acknowledge our need

for a Remedy OUTSIDE of that Sin Nature we share with Adam

But - it was Not the law - that BROUGHT the consequence of Sin

The consequence of Sin is Death

& Death had reigned in mankind - from Adam to Moses

Just as V.14 says; → →

Rom 5:14A - ESV

14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam . . .

The consequence of Death - is the **proof**
that **Sin** permeated **ALL** mankind

even those whose sin was not "**Specifically**" like **Adam's**

meaning - those who did not **specifically disobey**
a **direct command** from God

The point is - **Sin** (& the resulting **Death**) permeated all mankind
because of **Adam's Federal Headship**

& what we need to see is;

THAT is actually the foundation of **HOW**
we are **saved** by the **Actions of ONE MAN** (Jesus Christ)

Just as we are **CONDEMNED** by the actions of a **Federal Head**
We are also **SAVED** by the actions of a **Federal Head**

& THAT truth is **referred to** at the end of **V.14**

. . . Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

I really like the way **The Message Paraphrase** puts this sentence

V.14C - The Message

But Adam, who got us into this, also points ahead to the One who will get us out of it.

Isn't that just like God ?

Right in the Tragedy of the Fall of Man
is actually a Picture of God's Great Plan of Salvation

The theology of God
that caused each of us to be sinners "in Adam"
is the same theology of God
that allows each of us to be made righteous "in Christ"

Both Adam & Christ hold "Federal Headship" positions
because both of their actions
caused eternal consequences for all mankind

one - a consequence of DEATH, &
one - a consequence of LIFE

& again - understanding HOW Adam's sin
brought death to us - - is actually the foundation

for understanding HOW the sacrifice of Jesus Christ
brings Salvation to us

Because in the same way that death was passed to all humanity
because of the sin of one man . . .

In that same way - Eternal Life is passed to all who believe
because of the righteous act of one man – Jesus Christ !!

1Cor 15:21-22 - ESV → →

1Cor 15:21-22 - NLT

21 So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man.

22 Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.

Do you see it ? Isn't it Incredible ?

The Theology of God remains **the SAME**

whether it's **Judgment upon sin** leading to **Death** - or
whether is **Justification in Christ** - leading to **Life**

Either way - God remains **TRUE** to Himself

But here's the really good news

the work of the **last Adam** (Christ)
is **immeasurably greater** than the **1st Adam**

So - **let's try to compare** living in Adam and living in Christ

Rom 5:15 - ESV

15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

The **sin of Adam** brought death,

But the '**much more**' **grace of God** has brought . . .

the '**much more**' **dynamic power** - of Eternal & Abundant Life
by the Grace of that one Man - Jesus Christ

Because the life we receive
when we make Jesus Christ our Federal Head . . .

not only overcomes death,
but it restores ALL that the Sin Nature had destroyed

That's why Paul says in V.15
much more have the grace of God
and the free gift by that grace - abounded for many

Now - Don't get hung up on that word 'many' there in V.15

it literally is "the many"
meaning "The Number Effected" by the One Act

In regard to Adam:
"The Many" - are ALL who are ever PHYSICALLY BORN

in regard to Jesus Christ:
"The Many" - are ALL who are ever SPIRITUALLY BORN-AGAIN

Paul's point here is to contrast the two headships
& he continues that Contrast - in V.16

allow me to read it from the NLT

Rom 5:16 - NLT → →

Rom 5:16 - NLT

16 And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins.

Adam's one sin

brought the **certainty of death** to every person

Jesus' one sacrifice

brings the **availability of eternal life** to every person

Simply put :

Living 'in Adam' results in **condemnation** before God

Living 'in Christ' results in **justification** (being made right) with God

Again - in **V. 17** - we see;

the **Contrast of Sin** with the **MUCH MORE Grace** of God

Rom 5:17 - (back to) ESV

17 If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Through Adam **death reigned**

and it still does reign for those living 'in Adam'

But much more;

*in the **Abundance of Grace** & in the **Free Gift of Righteousness**
will we **reign in life** through the one man - Jesus Christ!*

& It is this same "much more" grace of God that is BOTH;

God's **remedy** to forgive sin - AND

God's **method** to transform the sinner (*start to see that next week*)

& the blessings that come from living in that

*'much more', **super-abundant grace of God***

are greater than we can ever really **even imagine**

with its **ultimate result** being

Eternal Life for us - as **Joint-heirs** with Jesus Christ

Now, **let's reread** the summary **verses** we started with (**Vs's18 & 19**)

Remember - Each One of us

is in *one of two places* today

Either we are Living "*in Adam*" – under **Adam's** headship . . . or,
we are Living "*in Christ*" – under **Christ's** headship

& from **God's Perspective** - It is either **ONE** or the **OTHER**
there is **NO** in-between

We are either **IN ADAM** - or we are **IN CHRIST**

Rom 5:18-19 - ESV → →

Rom 5:18-19 - ESV

18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

I pray today - that you will know For Sure
which side of this line you are Living On

Adam is head of all born humanity
you come under **Adam's headship** - when you are **physically born**

Christ is head of all spiritual humanity
you come under **Christ's headship** - when you are **born again**

SO - **Are you** living under "Adam's Headship", or
Are you living under "Christ's Headship"

Adam acted on our behalf,
& when **Adam Sinned**, we sinned "in Adam",

In the same way - **Jesus Christ** acted on our behalf
& when **Jesus** conquered Sin, & Death, & the Grave . . .

We who are "In Christ"
Conquered Sin, & Death, & the Grave **"IN CHRIST"**

That is God's theology

& it is **the only way** we can **stand righteous** before God
& it's **the only way** we can **Live for God** in this Life

Every **UNBELIEVER** will stand before God
“in Adam” as their head

& the Sin Nature that **Adam** brought upon us,
& the *sinful acts they committed in that Sin Nature*,
will be charged against them

But every **BELIEVER** will stand before God
“In Christ” as their head

& the **Victory that Christ won** over Sin, Death & the Grave
will be Fully & Completely **Attributed** to them “In Christ”

So - we see the greatness of our lost-ness
thru our unity with **Adam**

But ‘much more’ we see the greatness of our salvation
thru our unity with **Jesus Christ**

Now - All this would certainly come as a **SHOCK**
to Paul's Jewish Readers in Rome

Who felt that everything about God **revolved** around the Law

But now **Paul's saying** that Sin & Salvation
DO NOT revolve around the **LAW**

but **they Revolve** around **TWO Federal Heads** (Adam & Christ)

& **not only that** - but Paul's saying
the Law was **NOT Actually Meant** to Save anybody

But was actually meant as a MIRROR

to show us our Great NEED to be Saved
& our inability to Save Ourselves

So - anticipating this concern

Paul is going to close - w/ a final explanation of the LAW

Rom 5:20 - ESV

20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

The law came in - to reveal the sinfulness of our sin,
or as V.20 says - *to increase the trespass*

But where the "Knowledge of Sin" increased
Grace abounded all the more

Look at how the NLT puts Rom 5:20

Rom 5:20 - NLT

20 God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant.

ACTUALLY - as the KNOWLEDGE of SIN Increased,
the Wonderful Grace of God
became much more ABUNDANTLY APPARENT

That's why Paul says victoriously at the end of V.20 - ESV
but where sin increased, grace *abounded all the more*

The words *abounded all the more* - are difficult to translate in English,
It means Grace "*super-increased*" or "*super-abounded*"

It pictures a *never-ending, overflowing grace*
It is a grace that *knows no bounds*

The power of God's grace - is always *infinitely more abundant*
than the power of sin will ever be

At the PASSION LA event last weekend

we heard the story of the Title song of the New Passion CD
called "God of this City"

It came from a Belfast Worship Band called BLUETREE
who found themselves playing in a Brothel
in (I believe) Panay Philippines

This city boasts 30,000 legal prostitutes over 18
& an innumerable # of legal prostitutes UNDER 18

& as they played - in one of the Darkest Cities in the World
A city filled with bondage, oppression,
& widespread celebrated legal prostitution of ALL ages

As they played - Right in the middle of unbelievable sin
Right in the middle of a full on BROTHEL

God gave them this song
Right in the midst of a mountain of Reprehensible Sin

The song is called "God of this City" & it goes like this;

You're the God of this City
You're the King of these People
You're the Lord of this Nation
You're the Light in this Darkness
You're the Hope to the Hopeless
You're the Peace to the Restless

There is no one like our God

For greater things have yet to come

And greater things are still to be done in this City

You see - As Rom 5:20 says - ESV

20 . . . but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

God's Grace "Super-Increased" - it - "Super-Abounded"

There's **always** 'much more' of God's Super-Abounding GRACE

No matter how grave your sin

God's 'much more' grace

can be super-abundantly poured out to you.

No one is beyond the reach

of God's 'much more' **Grace** found in Jesus Christ

WHY ??

Why does God **ALWAYS** have *Much More Grace ??*

Rom 5:21 - NLT

21 So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The ONLY question is;

WHO is Ruling over **you** today ??

Are you living under the *headship of Adam* today
headed toward certain **death** ?

or **are you living** under the *headship of Christ* today
headed toward certain **Abundant & Eternal Life** ?

You were **BORN** under the *headship of Adam*

Today, you can be **BORN-AGAIN**

Under the *headship of Jesus Christ*

Let's Pray