

**Romans 5:6-21** (NKJV) 6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only [that,] but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

**God demonstrated His love for us-***remember a primary theme in Romans is the righteousness of God revealed (Rom.1:17)*, and our salvation is based fully upon the finished and perfect work of Jesus Christ, and our placing our faith in His righteousness alone.

**Recall that last week we talked about Hope that is anchored behind the veil in the secret place.** A primary anchor point that we must return to is the fact that we are not saved by our own righteous deeds but by the righteousness of Christ alone.

- **God demonstrates His love toward us while we were still sinners, Christ died for us!** This is the ultimate picture of love and grace. We were neither righteous nor were we good.
- **Jesus Christ died for us while we were at our absolute worst. He gave us his best when we were at our worst.**
- Sin earned the wrath of God, but because Jesus became the sinless sacrifice in human flesh, the wrath that we deserve is transferred to him. This is a hard concept to fully understand, but **Jesus took the wrath that we deserve so that we could take on His righteousness that we could never earn or ever deserve.**
- Reconciliation is the process by which God and man are brought together again. It is God's idea, His completed act through Christ death and the only way for man to have peace with God.

The response of the believer who has been saved from the wrath of God and has been reconciled (restored to God through the blood of Christ) brings the attitude of 'rejoicing' in this finished work. **11 And not only [that,] but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.**

There must be in the presence center believer not just a mind that wants to understand doctrine (*legal standing*) but a heart that is joined to Christ and that displays a heart and life of gratitude (*relational intimacy*). **We must let the truth of what Jesus has done, stir our affections Until praise and worship is fully formed. It is not just what do I believe but how am I transformed? It is not just my intellectual agreement. It is my spirit, soul and body being caught a-blaze by the wonderful beautiful gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**In versus 12 through 21 the apostle Paul reveals the contrast between Adam and Jesus.**

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-- 13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a **type of Him** who was to come. 15 But the free gift [is] not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. 16 And the gift [is] not like [that which came] through the one who sinned. For the judgment [which came] from one [offense resulted] in condemnation, but the free gift [which came] from many offenses [resulted] in justification. 17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore, as through one man's offense [judgment came] to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act [the free gift came] to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. 20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Original Sin** John Wesley defined original sin as the total corruption of human nature, inherited from Adam, which renders humanity entirely inclined to evil and spiritually dead. **He viewed it as a universal disease that required new birth.**

Original sin was inherited sin every human is born into it which is why we need born again. Our nature is sinful, we are inclined to sin. We can do no good apart from Jesus Christ. We are born with a sin nature and do not have the ability to live a righteous life.

- David: Psalm 51:5 (NKJV) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.
- Jesus-John 3:3 (NKJV) Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

### **Two Men Define Humanity: Adam & Christ**

**1 Corinthians 15:21-22** (NKJV) 21 For since by man [came] death, by Man also [came] the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

**1 Corinthians 15:45-49** (NKJV) 45 And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam [became] a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47 The first man [was] of the earth, [made] of dust; the second Man [is] the Lord from heaven. 48 As [was] the [man] of dust, so also [are] those [who are made] of dust; and as [is] the heavenly [Man,] so also [are] those [who are] heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the [man] of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly [Man.]

**Adam** = the first man, represents all humanity in sin.

First Adam-man was of the earth, made of dust **Adam Brought Sin and Death to All**

- Adam stood as the head of the human race.
- When he sinned: Sin entered human nature., Death and corruption spread to all people.
- Humanity now reproduces fallen, broken image-bearers. Condemned to die.

**Return to the dirt.** Genesis 3:17-19 (NKJV) 17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “Cursed [is] the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat [of] it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you [are,] And to dust you shall return.”

**Jesus** = represents all humanity in redemption.

Greater Adam (last Adam)-life giving spirit, from heaven, through Jesus came the resurrection of the dead, in Christ all shall be made alive

**Christ Took Sin and Gave Life to All**

- Jesus became fully human and stood in our place.
- He: Took on the sin of the world.
  - Bore judgment on behalf of humanity.
- In exchange, He gives:
  - Forgiveness, Righteousness and Eternal life

**The Image of God: Lost in Adam, Restored in Christ**

- Humans were created in God’s image (good, whole, pure, one with God)
- After the fall:
  - That image was distorted and corrupted.
  - What we now naturally produce is sin (the “Old Adam”).

Genesis 5:3 (NKJV) And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot [a son] in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

**Man was originally created in the image of God and sin distorted and disfigured that image.** Sin breaks the divine image of God and it also breaks fellowship with Him. **When we see the original intent of a loving God with the desire to have communion and oneness with mankind who is made in His image it can move our heart to love Him more and gladly yield to His eternal purpose for us.**

- The Hebrew words “image” (tselem) and “likeness” (demuth) in Genesis basically mean the same thing: **humans are like a reflection or representation of God—not physically, but in who we are.**
- In the Bible, these words were also used for idols or statues. Those statues weren’t the actual god, but they were meant to represent that god’s presence and authority.
- **So when Genesis says humans are made in God’s image, it means: we are meant to represent God on earth—revealing what He is like.**
- **This doesn’t mean we look like God physically. Instead, we reflect Him in inner qualities, like:**
  - thinking and reasoning
  - making moral choices
  - showing love, mercy, and compassion
  - having authority and responsibility
- One key difference from animals is that humans can make real moral choices—we can choose good or evil.
- **The clearest picture of what “God’s image” looks like is Jesus. He perfectly shows what God is like.**
- So being made in God’s image really means:
- we are designed to live like Jesus—loving God, loving others, choosing good, and reflecting God’s character in the world.

Jesus Christ Is the perfect image of God and He by the power of the Holy Spirit restores that image in believers so that we can bring a living revelation to the world of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:49 (NKJV) And as we have borne the image of the [man] of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly [Man.]

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV) But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are **being transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

**Adam image breaker, Jesus image restorer.** This is why when we are born again we are given the Holy Spirit of God to dwell within and restore the divine image of God in us!

**The moment you are saved the beauty of Christ is imparted into your inner man cleansing you from every blemish, washing you in His blood, restoring oneness and His image. The beautification begins at salvation.** The inner transformation of a sanctified heart manifests in many ways. **The Holy Spirit actually transforms us through His sanctifying work that perfects spirit, soul and flesh.** Jesus always leaves a tangible expression when we yield to Holy Spirit's beautification process. **His inner work release tangible evidence of your union with Him and your freedom from the sin nature.**

**The beauty of God, beautifies us.**

The first Adam yielded to temptation in a garden. (Genesis 3:6)

The Last Adam beat temptation in a garden. (Luke 22:42)

The first Adam ate and a covenant was broken. (Hosea 6:7)

The Last Adam ate and a covenant was established. (Matthew 26:26)

The first Adam was a man who sought to become like God. (Genesis 3:5)

The Last Adam was God who became a man. (John 1:14)

The first Adam was naked and received clothes. (Genesis 3:21)

The Last Adam had clothes but was stripped naked. (Matthew 27:28)

The first Adam tasted death from a tree. (Genesis 2:17)

The Last Adam tasted death on a tree. (1 Peter 2:24)

The first Adam hid from the face of God. (Genesis 3:10)

The Last Adam begged God not to hide His face. (Matthew 27:46)

The first Adam blamed his bride. (Genesis 3:12)

The Last Adam took the blame for His bride. (Ephesians 5:25)

The first Adam brought thorns and thistles. (Genesis 3:18)

The Last Adam wore thorns and thistles. (Matthew 27:29)

The first Adam gained a wife when God opened man's side (Genesis 2:21-22)

The Last Adam gained a wife when man opened God's side (John 19:34)

The first Adam brought a curse. (Genesis 3:17)

The Last Adam became a curse. (Galatians 3:13)

The first Adam was made immortal and chose to die. (Romans 5:12)

The Last Adam was made mortal and chose to rise. (John 10:18)

The first Adam listened when the Serpent said “take and eat.” (Genesis 3:5)

The Last Adam told His followers, “take and eat.” (Matthew 26:26)

### **Home groups**

-discuss the Gospel as a demonstration of the love of God! That while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Why is this doctrine so essential?

-discuss the difference between knowing doctrine and having relational intimacy. Why are both necessary? Where do you struggle more?

-discuss original sin and its implications on every human being. What’s the danger if we don’t believe that we are sinners?

John Wesley defined original sin as the total corruption of human nature, inherited from Adam, which renders humanity entirely inclined to evil and spiritually dead. **He viewed it as a universal disease that required new birth.**

-discuss the following **Man was originally created in the image of God and sin distorted and disfigured that image.** Sin breaks the divine image of God and it also breaks fellowship with Him

-go through the list of the first Adam and the greater Adam Jesus Christ. Are there any other contrasts you can think of?