

## **The Book of Romans 5:12–21**

**Big Idea:** Through Adam, sin and death entered the world. Through Christ, grace and life have come to all who receive him by faith.

**The Context of Romans:** Paul has been showing that both Jews and Gentiles need the gospel. Religious background, knowledge of the Law, family heritage, or moral effort cannot make anyone right with God. Romans 3 reminded us that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 4 showed that Abraham was made right by faith, not by works. Romans 5 now shows us why the problem is bigger than individual behavior. Humanity’s problem goes all the way back to Adam.

### **1. Adam Shows Us the Depth of the Problem**

Paul points back to Genesis 3, where Adam and Eve rebelled against God. Sin entered the world through Adam, and death came through sin. This means sin is not just a series of bad choices. It is a condition that has marked the human family from the beginning. We are not born spiritually neutral. Something in us is bent away from God. We do not have to be taught selfishness, pride, anger, or disobedience. Those things come naturally. We have to be taught kindness, humility, patience, generosity, and obedience. This is what Christians mean when we talk about original sin.

**Supporting Scriptures:** Genesis 3:1–7 - Psalm 51:5 - Romans 3:10–12 - Ephesians 2:1–3

**Listening Point:** Sin is deeper than behavior. It is a broken condition that only God can heal.

### **2. Death Shows Us the Consequence of Sin**

Paul says death spread to all people because all sinned. Death was not part of God’s good design. Death entered because sin entered. Every form of death, decay, grief, loss, and brokenness reminds us that the world is not the way it was meant to be. This also means we should not minimize sin. Sin is not harmless. Sin is not something to manage casually. Sin always leads away from God and toward death. The Christian life requires honesty about sin because we understand what sin does.

**Supporting Scriptures:** Genesis 2:16–17 - Romans 6:23 - James 1:14–15 - 1 Corinthians 15:21–22

**Listening Point:** We should not play with sin or assume we are the exception to the rule.

### **3. Christ Shows Us the Greatness of Grace**

Paul does not leave us in Adam. The center of the passage is not only that Adam brought sin and death. The greater message is that Christ brings grace and life. Paul says, “The gift is not like the trespass.” Adam’s disobedience brought condemnation, but Christ’s obedience brings justification. Adam’s sin brought death, but Christ’s righteousness brings life. Grace does not simply match sin. Grace overwhelms it.

**Supporting Scriptures:** Romans 5:15–17 - John 1:16–17 - Ephesians 2:4–9 - Titus 3:4–7

**Listening Point:** Your sin is real, but it is not greater than the grace of Jesus Christ.

### **4. The Gospel Is for All Who Receive Christ**

Paul’s argument matters because he is showing that the gospel is not only for one kind of person. If Adam’s sin affected all humanity, then Christ’s grace is sufficient for all humanity. This does not mean everyone is automatically saved. It means Christ saves all who come to him by faith, Jew and Gentile alike.

The question is not whether we are good people or bad people. The question is whether we are still in Adam or whether we are in Christ.

**Supporting Scriptures:** Romans 5:18–19 - John 3:16–17 - Romans 10:12–13 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 - 1 Corinthians 15:45–49

### **Final Thought**

In Adam, sin reigns in death. In Christ, grace reigns through righteousness to eternal life.

Because we do not underestimate sin, we do not minimize grace. Sin is serious, death is real, and humanity cannot save itself. But Christ is greater than Adam. Grace is greater than sin. Life is greater than death. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, grace reigns.