

# ROMANS 3:13-17

## CRITICAL CONTRASTS

### KEY THOUGHT

"Although sin extends to all who are in Adam (and all are by birth), the grace of God transforms for eternity the life and destiny of all who are in Christ (and all who turn to Him in faith are)." - Robert Mounce

### CONTRAST 1: SIN VS. GRACE (Read Romans 5:15)

- What does the phrase "free gift" mean and what does the word "trespass" mean?
- Discuss the use of the words "many" and "all." Consider this: "In regard to Adam's actions, many is universal and inclusive, which corresponds to what Paul said in v. 12. Because all people, without exception, have a sin nature, they all are without exception under the sentence of God. Yet, in Christ, while His grace is available to all, not all are saved. Many will be saved who trust in the finished work of Jesus."
- Why does Paul want us to see that Christ's one act of salvation has immeasurably greater impact than Adam's act of sin and that if Adam's one sin wrecked the world, how much more can Christ's one act of grace redeem your life?"

### CONTRAST 2: CONDEMNATION VS. JUSTIFICATION (Read Romans 5:16)

- Discuss this: Adam's sin brought condemnation down upon all, but the provision of Christ's death offers justification to all.
- Consider this helpful quote from C.E.B. Cranfield, "That one single sin should be answered by judgment, this is perfectly understandable; that the accumulated sins and guilt of all the ages should be answered by God's free gift, that is the miracle of miracles, utterly beyond human comprehension."
- Why does Paul want us to see that greater even than God's hatred of sin is His incredible love for sinners?
- As a Christian, do you still live as though you're condemned, or as one who's been transformed by grace?"

### CONTRAST 3: REIGN OF DEATH VS. REIGN OF LIFE (Read Romans 5:17)

- Discuss this: The result of Adam's disobedience was death, the result of Christ's obedience is life and life everlasting. In light of that, how does death reign through Adam, but life reign through Christ?
- Talk about the life a believer has in Jesus Christ. (e.g. John 10:10, 11:25-26, 1 John 5:12-13)
- What does it look like for the reign of Christ to show up in your home, habits, thought life, priorities, etc.? (e.g. Romans 8:6, 11)?