

ROMANS 5:18-21

THE POWER OF ONE

CONDEMNATION THROUGH ONE VS. JUSTIFICATION THROUGH ONE (Read Romans 5:18)

- Think about all Paul has covered in 5:12-17, which he now brings together in these final verses, and discuss the contrast between Adam and Christ. How did Adam's one sin bring condemnation for humanity, and how did Christ's death on the Cross make salvation available to humanity?
- We have covered the terms "condemnation" and "justification" extensively. Take a moment, write out a definition of these terms, share the definitions, and discuss.
- Discuss this quote from Robert Mounce, "Paul did not teach that the result of Christ's atoning work automatically provided justification to all regardless of their willingness to accept it, rather, it is abundantly clear from this passage, as well as all of Romans, that salvation only comes to those who have faith in Jesus Christ."

DISOBEDIENCE OF ONE VS. OBEDIENCE OF ONE (Read Romans 5:19)

- Look closely at verse 19 and discuss the word "made." The word "made" means constituting or establishing, and carries with it the idea of imputation: *Imputation means something is credited to your account. Adam's sin is credited to all of us by nature. Christ's righteousness is credited to all who believe by grace through faith.*
- Discuss this: Jesus' obedience is a matter of life and death to us, because His perfect life and obedience is for us what we could and would never do for ourselves. His perfect obedience provides perfect righteousness which can be imputed to the one who believes. (e.g. Phil. 2:8)
- Discuss the importance of obedience. How did Jesus model perfect obedience to the Father and why is that our example as we live out our faith? (e.g. Luke 2:49; John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 14:15)

REIGN OF SIN VS. REIGN OF GRACE (Read Romans 5:20-21)

- What does it mean that "the law came in to increase the trespass?"
- Take a moment and discuss and rejoice in this truth: Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more. God's grace doesn't just match sin—it overwhelms it. Where sin built a kingdom of death, grace builds a kingdom of life.
- What did sin ultimately bring and what does grace ultimately bring?
- Talk for a few moments about grace and discuss the dangers of the extreme sides of grace: Liberalism is, "The more I sin, the more grace God gives; legalism is, "The more grace God gives, the more I have to earn His grace." What is a Christian's proper view of grace and how do we rightly, faithfully, and biblically live in light of God's grace? (e.g. Romans 6:1-2)