

How to Become a Tyrant

- E1: Seize Power
- E2: Crush your Rivals
- E3: Reign through Terror
- E4: Control the Truth
- E5: Create a New Society
- E6: Rule Forever

Above your circumstances.

Romans 5:12-17 Death in Adam, Life in Christ

*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—<sup>13</sup> for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.<sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.<sup>15</sup> 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.<sup>16</sup> And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.<sup>17</sup> For 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.*

Truths

- Sin promises freedom but brings death – 5:12 *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—*

- Death, sin, and the law? – 5:13-14
  - Death preceded the Mosaic Law. So then, what was the standard of right and wrong? – 5:13 *for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.*
  - But people still died before the Law was given through Moses...so what is going on?
  - The Moral Law was written in our hearts and framed our conscience before Moses gave the Law on tablets of stone (Romans 2:14-16).
  - Because sin is universal, death is also universal – 5:14 *Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.*
  
- Scripture: Death is not natural. Death is the enemy.

“Every technical problem has a technical solution. We don’t need to wait for the Second Coming in order to overcome death. A couple of geeks in a lab can do it. If traditionally death was the specialty of priests and theologians, now the engineers are taking over.” – Noah Yuval Harari, atheist historian, and futurist<sup>1</sup>

- God’s free gift fulfills what sin promises but can’t satisfy: the abundance of grace and righteousness – 5:15-17 *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. <sup>16</sup> And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. <sup>17</sup> For 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.*

OBJ: Does this teach Universalism?

RBTL: 5:17b Only for those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness [will] reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

### Application

- Speak words of life, not death. Strive to build up those around you. People desperately need words of encouragement.
- When you feel pressured by this broken world, what is your go-to response?<sup>2</sup>
  - 1) Leaning into the circumstance (Reactionary)
  - 2) Living under the circumstances (Defeatist)
  - 3) Leading out of the circumstances (Victorious)

### Tyrants vs. Jesus Christ

1. Tyrants seize power. Jesus Christ has all power.
2. Tyrants crush their rivals. Jesus Christ loves His enemies.
3. Tyrants reign through terror. Jesus Christ reigns through Love.
4. Tyrants try to control the Truth. Jesus Christ is the Truth.
5. Tyrants attempt to create a new society. Jesus Christ is building His family out of former enemies.
6. Tyrants dream of ruling forever. Jesus Christ will rule forever.

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<sup>1</sup> Yuval Noah Harari, *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow* (London: Penguin Random House, 2016), 23. In Jacob Shatzer, *Transhumanism and the Image of God* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2019), 42.

<sup>2</sup> Much thanks to Lyle Wells.