

DEVOTIONAL

WHEN IN ROME V // THEREFORE LIFE
SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

GRACE
FELLOWSHIP

Discussion Starter: Since today's lesson has much to say about Adam, do a quick review of who Adam was. A brief summary can be found at www.gotquestions.org: "Who Was Adam in the Bible?"

Key Text: *"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—¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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."* (Romans 5:12-17)

In 2002, curators at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art mourned the fall of Adam—a priceless 15th-century sculpture that tipped over from its pedestal, shattering into thousands of pieces. Experts did their best to restore the Adam statue to its original beauty, but the damage was too great—Adam was never whole again. Similarly, we cannot restore ourselves from the effects of Adam's Fall in Genesis. Ever since Adam's Fall, we lie in a pile of spiritual brokenness on the floor of creation. Our only hope was for the One who created us to restore us to wholeness by His grace. And He has for those who have faith in Christ through whom *"all things are made new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

In today's text, Paul explains the effects of Adam's fall on himself and us and compares the disobedient work of Adam, as the representative of sinful humanity, with the obedient work of Christ, on behalf of sinful humanity.

1. Sin entered the world through Adam's sin, and death is the consequence of sin.

"Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin..." (v.12a) By choosing to go against God's command, Adam and Eve introduced sin with all of its consequences into the human experience. God created Adam and Eve with a free will so they could love Him. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve chose to walk away from God. This introduced sin into the world and our lives.

Death followed sin, as God said it would (Genesis 2:17). First, God slaughtered an animal to provide clothing for Adam and Eve, who realized they were naked (Genesis 3:21). Adam and Eve were then sent away from God and from the Garden of Eden and began to die physically. They became mortal beings with a limited lifespan.

Discuss: What are some evidences of sin's consequences in our world today?

2. All people sin because they inherit sin from Adam; therefore, all people die.

“...and so death spread to all men because all sinned” (v.12c). Adam and Eve’s sin and its consequences were passed on to their offspring—us. Every person ever born in the world, other than Jesus (Hebrews 4:15), was born sinful and destined to die.

Discuss: Why do you think people fear death?

3. Before God gave Moses the law, sin was still counted against all people—since all have a sin nature and also choose to sin—even though no particular laws were directly broken since the law had not been given yet.

“For sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law” (v.13). Specific sins were not counted against specific people before the law. Rather, sin was simply human beings expressing their sinful nature by being self-serving and immoral. Even though people didn’t have the law written down, they still knew better than to do the sinful things they were doing. The sinful nature every human being was born with resulted in disobedient attitudes and actions, which resulted in separation from God and inevitable death.

4. Adam and Jesus were alike—their choice affected the world—but Adam’s disobedience resulted in death to all while Jesus’ obedience resulted in life to all.

“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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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” (v.14-17). A single act of disobedience by Adam brought death to all who came after him. Adam broke God’s command, bringing both sin and the resulting death into the world. In contrast, Jesus’ action of obedience brought forgiveness, justification, and righteousness to all who trust in Him. Twice Paul says, “death reigned” (v.14, 17), but placing our faith in Christ sets us free from the kingdom of death and allows us to rule in the kingdom of life alongside Jesus. Paul is careful to specify that only “those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ” (v.17).

Discuss: In what way is Adam and Jesus alike, and in what ways are they different?

For Further Study:

Basic Theology by Charles Ryrie

“Adam, Free Choice, and the Cause of Sin” article at www.answersingenesis.com

The Genesis Record by Henry Morris