

Devotional Questions – Romans 5:12-21

1. *Who is Paul referring to when he says the ‘one man’:*
 - a. *Romans 5:12, 15a, 16, 17, 18, 19?*
 - b. *Romans 5:15b, 17b, 18, 19?*
2. *Why does Adam’s sin affect us today?*
3. *From these verses in what ways are Adam and Christ similar?*
4. *From these verses in what ways are Adam and Jesus different?*
5. *Why does Paul repeat the words ‘how much more’* (Romans 5:9, 15, 17, 20)?* *The actual expression is stronger in the context, being definitive, not simply exclamatory. It is **“much more”** Romans 5:9, 15, 17, 20.
6. *How does Paul describe God’s grace towards those who are trusting Jesus (Romans 5:17)?*
7. *What purpose does the Law serve (compare Romans 5:13 with Romans 5:20, Galatians 3:9-26)?*

Devotional Questions – Romans 5:12-21, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Romans* pp 195-230 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1491-1492 for detailed comment.

1. *Who is Paul referring to when he says the 'one man':*

a. *Romans 5:12, 15a, 16, 17, 18, 19?*

Adam, as Paul has stated. **"Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come"** Romans 5:14.

b. *Romans 5:15b, 17b, 18, 19?*

That man is **"one man, Jesus Christ"** Romans 5:15.

The importance of each man is as Paul states **"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive"** 1 Corinthians 15:22. That is why Paul received the commission from the Lord Jesus Christ with respect to those **"in Adam"** that applies to today's believer **"To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me"** Acts 26:18.

2. *Why does Adam's sin affect us today?*

Paul explains why. **"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"** Romans 5:12.

That is why today's believer should be like Paul and faithfully bear witness to **"the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel"** 2 Timothy 1:10.

3. *From these verses in what ways are Adam and Christ similar?*

- The one pre-figured the other in that **"Adam...was the son of God"** Luke 3:38 and the Lord Jesus Christ is **"Jesus Christ...the Son of God"** Acts 8:37, Romans 5:14.
- The action of *one* individual affected *many*, Romans 5:15.
- The action of one individual was *life-changing* for the many affected, Romans 5:16-19.

Don't underestimate the power of one life.

"Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good" Ecclesiastes 9:18.

"Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men" Proverbs 22:29.

Therefore, aim to be diligent, **"Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord"** Romans 12:11.

4. From these verses in what ways are Adam and Jesus different?

- Through Adam **“many be dead,”** through the Lord Jesus Christ **“the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many”** Romans 5:15.
- Through Adam came **“judgment...by one to condemnation,”** through the Lord Jesus Christ came **“the free gift...unto justification”** Romans 5:16.
- Through Adam **“death reigned by one,”** through the Lord Jesus Christ **“abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ”** Romans 5:17.
- Through Adam **“judgment came upon all men to condemnation;”** through the Lord Jesus Christ **“even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life”** Romans 5:18.
- Through Adam’s **“disobedience many were made sinners,”** through the Lord Jesus Christ **“so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous”** Romans 5:19.

That is why Paul says, as part of the commission of Acts 26:18 that applies to today’s believer, see *Question 1*, **“Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved”** 1 Corinthians 10:33.

5. Why does Paul repeat the words ‘how much more’* (Romans 5:9, 15, 17, 20)? *The actual expression is stronger in the context, being definitive, not simply exclamatory. It is **“much more”** Romans 5:9, 15, 17, 20.

See www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ Romans 5 Part 1, Question 7 and this extract:

Paul is saying that **“the grace of God”** Romans 5:15 is:

- **“much more”** than **“the wrath of God”** John 3:36 with Romans 5:9
- **“much more”** than **“the offence of one”** by which **“many be dead”** Romans 5:15
- **“much more”** than the reign of death itself e.g. in that **“death reigned from Adam to Moses”** Romans 5:14, 17
- **“much more”** than **“The sting of death...sin; and the strength of sin...the law”** 1 Corinthians 15:56 with Romans 5:20.

That is why Paul set out his priority for today’s believer to follow with respect to **“the gospel of the grace of God.”**

“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God” Acts 20:24.

6. How does Paul describe God’s grace towards those who are trusting Jesus (Romans 5:17)?

They **“reign in life by one, Jesus Christ”** Romans 5:17 because as John explains though **“the whole world lieth in wickedness”** 1 John 5:19, today’s believer has in the Lord Jesus Christ the victory over the wickedness of the world, in the way that God answered the Lord’s prayer.

“I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil” John 17:15.

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” 1 John 5:4-5, who then, like the Ethiopian, the world notwithstanding **“went on his way rejoicing”** Acts 8:39.

7. What purpose does the Law serve (compare Romans 5:13 with Romans 5:20, Galatians 3:9-26)?

Romans 5:13 states “*...For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.*”

Romans 5:20 states “*Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:*”

Romans 5:13, 20 declare that though “*death by sin...passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*” and “*death reigned from Adam to Moses*” Romans 5:12, 14, the law had to be in operation before “*every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward*” Hebrews 2:2 but the law showed up “*every transgression and disobedience*” in stark relief so that the death penalty was even more likely under the law e.g. for collecting firewood on the sabbath. “*And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day...And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died: as the LORD commanded Moses*” Numbers 15:32, 35-36.

So demanding is “*the law*” that by it “*the scripture hath concluded all under sin...kept under the law...*” Galatians 3:22-23 thereby subject to “*death by sin*” Romans 5:13 unless:

The sinner is willing to receive “*the promise by faith of Jesus Christ...given to them that believe*” Galatians 3:22 because “*Jesus Christ the righteous*” 1 John 2:1 by “*Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross*” Colossians 2:14 thereby “*by the grace of God*” 1 Corinthians 15:10 made the believer *righteous with life* instead of *dead through sin* in “*That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord*” Romans 5:21.

As Paul therefore states with respect to “*the law*” “*Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith*” Galatians 3:24.

As Paul summarises “*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him*” 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Today’s believer therefore has as Paul did the responsibility to make known “*the promise by faith of Jesus Christ*” Galatians 3:22 “*Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily*” Colossians 1:28-29.

It is the Lord’s calling, as Paul states.

“*For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth*” Acts 13:47.