



Going Deeper

R o m a n s 5 : 1 2 - 2 1

Big idea

Through Adam's sin, death entered and spread to all humanity. But through Christ's obedience, God's grace super-abounds, bringing justification, righteousness, and eternal life to those who believe. Where sin reigns in death, grace now reigns in life through Jesus Christ.

Sermon recap

Sin entered (v.12). Adam's fall introduced sin into the human race, not just as individual acts but as a corrupt nature inherited by all. As David confessed in Psalm 51:5, we are sinful from conception. We sin because we are sinners by nature.

Death spread (v.12). Adam was not created for death, but his disobedience made death—spiritual, physical, and eternal—a grim certainty for all humanity. Spiritual death separates us from God (Eph. 2:1-2), physical death comes to all (Heb. 9:27), and eternal death awaits those outside Christ (Rev. 20:11-15).

Because all sinned (v.12). As John MacArthur notes, "Humans are not sinners because they sin, but rather they sin because they are sinners." All of us were in Adam, inheriting both his guilt and corruption.

From Adam to Moses (vv.13-14). Even before the law was given, death reigned universally, proving sin's dominion over all people. Adam's act condemned humanity; Christ's act redeems it.

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Sermon recap (cont.)

Adam a type of Christ (v.14). Both men's actions had consequences for many, but Christ's obedience far surpasses Adam's failure. Paul repeatedly says "much more" to highlight grace's superiority.

The gift of grace (vv.15-17). Adam's trespass brought condemnation, but Christ's obedience brings justification and life. Adam's sin doomed his descendants, but Christ's work overflows with forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal reign.

Summary (vv.18-19). One man's disobedience → condemnation. One man's obedience → justification and life. Adam made many sinners; Christ makes many righteous.

The law and grace (vv.20-21). The law revealed sin's seriousness, increasing awareness of guilt. But where sin increased, grace overflowed even more. Grace reigns through righteousness, leading to eternal life in Jesus Christ.

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How to go deeper this week

Day 1 — Sin and Death's Entrance

Read: Romans 5:12; Psalm 51:5

Reflect: How does understanding your sin nature from birth shape your view of salvation?

Pray: Confess your helplessness apart from Christ and thank God for sending a Savior.

Day 2 — The Reign of Death

Read: Romans 5:14; Hebrews 9:27

Reflect: Which of the three deaths (spiritual, physical, eternal) do you most need to be reminded of today?

Practice: Share the gospel with someone by explaining how Christ conquers death.

Day 3 — Adam and Christ

Read: Romans 5:15–17

Memorize: Romans 5:17

Reflect: In what ways is Christ's gift "much more" than Adam's sin?

Pray: Praise God for the super-abounding nature of His grace.

Day 4 — Condemnation and Justification

Read: Romans 5:18–19; 2 Corinthians 5:21

Reflect: How does imputation (Adam's guilt vs. Christ's righteousness) humble you and give assurance?

Practice: Write out a simple testimony of how Christ has made you righteous.

Day 5 — Grace Reigns

Read: Romans 5:20–21; Ephesians 2:8–9

Reflect: Where have you seen grace overpower sin in your life?

Practice: Share with someone how God's grace has triumphed over sin in your story.

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Practical applications

- **See sin rightly:** Don't minimize sin; remember it's not just what we do but who we are apart from Christ.
- **Rejoice in grace:** Live with confidence that God's grace doesn't just balance sin — it overwhelms it.
- **Live under grace's reign:** If grace rules in your life, let it shape your speech, habits, and relationships

Reflection and discussion

1. How does the doctrine of original sin (v.12) deepen your understanding of humanity's need for Christ?
2. Why is it important to see Adam and Christ as representatives of two different "families"?
3. What does Paul mean when he says grace "abounded much more" (v.20)?
4. How should knowing that grace reigns in life (v.21) affect your confidence and hope this week?

Scripture for further study

- Genesis 3; Psalm 51:5
- 1 Corinthians 15:21–22, 45–49
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Ephesians 2:1–9
- Revelation 20:11–15

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