

Rom. 5:12-21

God's Extravagant Grace

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- 1. This passage can sound very convoluted because:**
 - a. On one hand, Paul is trying to explain a minor similarity between Adam 1 and 2 (Jesus Christ).**
 - b. But on the other hand, he wants to stress the major differences between the two in results and consequences.**
 - c. This information can only come through divine revelation.**
- 2. This is so important for us to understand that in 10 short verses God and Paul explain it to us at least 6 times in 6 different ways.**

--To Paul it is a fine gemstone that he keeps turning in the light to show off all its glimmering facets.

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- 3. Man-made religious and theological systems think like this:
Christ died to get us back what we lost in Adam.**
 - a. Redeemed humanity is just the old humanity retuned to the life it had under Adam; therefore, you need to stay reliant on them.**
 - b. If humanity lost \$100 through Adam, Christ died to get old humanity's \$100 back—our old life under Adam.**
- 4. God and Paul say that is completely wrong, and we need to think like this: Christ died to give us infinitely more than we lost in Adam.**
 - a. Redeemed humanity is separated from the old humanity under Adam and united to the new humanity under Christ.**
 - b. Christ didn't die to get old humanity's \$100 back, He died to give a redeemed new humanity all His limitless riches.**

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- 5. The Similarity (Rom. 5:12 with v. 18):**
 - a. Adam as the Head of the old humanity brought sin, death and condemnation to all those associated with him in unbelief.**
 - b. The “free gift” God offers through Christ as the Head of the new humanity brings justification, Righteousness and Life to all those associated with Him in faith.**
- 6. But that is where the similarity ends. Everything else is completely different! The one man’s offence is nothing like the one Man’s righteous act on the Cross (Rom. 5:15-17).**
 - a. What is harder taking life or giving life?**
 - b. What God accomplished through Christ is almost beyond human words to articulate—Paul keeps stating and re-stating what he is trying to say—over and over again.**

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- 7. The mode of operation is similar—What belongs to the Head of a human family also belongs all those in the family (Rom. 5:18).**
- 8. But the results and consequences of the Head on behalf of his family differ completely in degree and type.**
 - a. To those in Adam receives Sin and Death**
 - b. To those in Christ receives Righteousness and Life**
- 9. The sinner's final destination is not determined by what he inherited from his ancestor Adam but on how he responds to God and the Good news He preaches to him under those inherited conditions. (5:17)**
 - A. Those who refuse the Gift of Grace through Christ in unbelief remain in Adam and are condemned and subject to Sin and Death.**
 - B. Those who accept the Gift of Grace through Christ in faith are in Christ and are justified and subject to Righteousness and Life..**

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- 10. These two distinct branches of humanity have two distinct kinds of life.**
 - A. God does not just restore believers to the old life they had under Adam 1.**
 - B. He gives new life, resurrection life, to the new redeemed humanity under Adam 2, the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- 11. This new life's source is Resurrection Life and its character is Eternal Life—it can never be taken away or lost.**
(Rom. 5:21; 6:4-5).

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- 12. Believers reign in life because they have access to the infinite riches of God's Grace, Righteousness and the power of His resurrection life. In short, we reign in life (5:17) because we are under the reign of Grace (5:21).**

- 13. God's "Much More" Christianity brings the believer into a whole new sphere of existence reigning by the Life of Christ that empowers us to serve God in Righteousness (5:17-18; 6:12-13 contrast Rom. 1:18-32; 3:23) .**