

Romans 5: 12-21

The triumph of grace



Think about and discuss one or two questions from each section.

The text – Romans 5:12–21

1. How would you describe Adam and everyone he represents? What contrasts with Adam does Christ bring?
2. Come up with a sentence that describes the ways of God in this passage.
3. What do you understand by the phrase 'reigning in life' (5:17)?
4. Discuss the following statements:
 - Paul's argument implies that just as all humans die, now all humans will live
 - This passage does not make sense since we know there was no historical Adam
 - It's unfortunate the Paul reduces humanity to two men and ignores women

The Scriptures – Romans 5:12–21 as a portion of the Scriptures

5. How does Psalm 8 fill out our picture of Adam and Christ (and ourselves)?
6. How does the theme of royal authority unfold in the Bible? See Gen 1:28, Gen 17:16, Ex 19:6, 2 Sam 7:4–17, Jer 33:14–22, Rom 1:1–6, 1 Pet 2:9, Rev 20:6, Rev 22:5
7. Read over Rom 6–8 and notice how Paul continues to explore humanity in Adam and humanity in Christ.

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Romans 5:12–21 as a portion of the Scriptures

8. Do you identify with Adam or Christ? How could your friends and family see that?
9. In the sermon, the idea that we reign with Christ was unpacked in these ways:
 - we have entered a new realm of an unshakeable kingdom
 - we are free, moment by moment, not to sin
 - we are restored to our Eden task of 'gardening' the earth

Which of these resonates with your life?

10. What barriers stop you experiencing all that being in Christ can bring?