

ADAM'S GIFT

ROMANS 5:12-14

The Bible clearly says all humans are born sinners—100% of us, no exceptions—**DOCTRINE OF ORIGINAL SIN.**

- We didn't get to choose to be sinners; we were born that way—through Adam!

THE CONTRAST OF ADAM AND JESUS

- Oh, how I hate the sin nature I received from Adam and its mortal consequence—**DEATH!**
- How much more I love the cure for my sin nature: Jesus' eternal gift—**LIFE!**

AN INEVITABLE TRUTH

The earth is pockmarked with graves and graveyards, and the most incontestable testimony of history is that all men—whatever their wealth, status, or accomplishments—are subject to death.

- Since the creation of man, every person but two, Enoch and Elijah, have died.
- And were it not for Christ's sacrifice, all men would continue to die.

Physically first, and without Christ, spiritually as well.

AN ANALOGY OF OPPOSITES

1. Because of **ADAM'S SIN**, all men are condemned.
2. Because of **CHRIST'S OBEDIENCE**, all can be pardoned.

SIN ENTERED THE WORLD THROUGH ONE MAN v. 12a

- It is important to note that Paul does not say that sin originated with Adam.
- Only that *sin in the world*, that is, in the human/earthly realm, *began with Adam*.
- Sin originated with Satan in the beginning. **1 JOHN 3:8**

SIN AND HEREDITY—YEP, IT'S IN YOUR DNA

Paul's argument begins with the assertion that, through Adam "*sin entered into the world.*"

- He does not speak of sins, plural, but of **SIN**, singular.
- In this sense, **SIN** does not represent a particular unrighteous act, but rather the inherent propensity to unrighteousness—your spiritual DNA.
- Just as Adam bequeathed his **PHYSICAL NATURE** to his posterity, he also bequeathed to us his **SPIRITUAL NATURE**, characterized and dominated by **SIN**.

WE ARE ALL RELATED

Practically speaking, ***MANKIND IS A SINGLE ENTITY*** constituting a divinely ordered solidarity; there is only one Humankind.

- Adam represents the entire human race that is descended from him, no matter how many subgroups there may be.
- We have a corporate identity in Adam.
- Ancient Jews understood well the idea of corporate identity. **GEN. 18:22-33; JOSH. 7:1-26; HEB. 7:7-10**

RESULT: DEATH

DEATH ENTERED THE WORLD THROUGH SIN v. 12b

- The second element of Paul's argument is that, because sin entered the world through one man, so also **death**, the consequence of sin, entered the world **through** that one man's **sin**.

Sin brings three kinds of death to men:

- 1.** *SPIRITUAL*, separation from God
- 2.** *PHYSICAL*, separation from fellow human beings
- 3.** Finally, death that unforgiven sin brings is *ETERNAL*

THE METHOD OF TRANSMISSION

DEATH SPREAD TO ALL MEN BECAUSE ALL SINNED v. 12c

- A third element of Paul's argument is that **death** was transmitted **to all men**, without exception.
- No human being has ever escaped death. Enoch and Elijah, who escaped physical and eternal death, nevertheless were spiritually dead before they trusted in the Lord.
- Mankind is not born morally neutral; we are born in sin; bad not good!

NO EXCUSES, NO EXEMPTIONS

ADAM HAD NO EXCUSE AT ALL; NEITHER DO WE.

- Without being deceived, and fully aware of what he was doing, he deliberately disobeyed God.
- Some object to the idea that they sinned in Adam, arguing that they were not there and did not even exist when he sinned.
- But by the same token, we were not physically at the crucifixion when Christ died.

PRAISE GOD FOR THE EQUALITY OF THE CURE . . . GRACE!

HISTORY PROVES IT v. 13-14

A fourth element of Paul's argument is that history verifies that death is universal, proving what scripture declares.

- Yet, because **death reigned from Adam to Moses**, that is, death was universal even though there was no law, it is obvious that men were still sinful.

We all still receive Adam's gift.

- Next week, we see the remedy: the glorious gospel of salvation from sin and death that God offers fallen mankind. **THANK YOU, JESUS!**