

Abundant Grace

(Rom 5:15-17)

- Remember the context in this section (5:12-21) is still the assurance of those justified in Christ

I. Mechanics of sub-section

A) Rom 5:12- “As in Adam”

1. Rom 5:13-17- Parenthesis of explanations

i. Rom 5:13-14- “All sinned” in Adam the type of Christ

a) Rom 5:15-17- Contrasts in comparison of Adam and Christ

B) Rom 5:18-19- “Even so in Christ”

C) Rom 5:20-21- Summary with possible objection answered

II. Rom 5:15-17- Paul feels it is necessary to bring out a point about biblical types, and how they must not be pressed too far, as the natural always falls short of the spiritual

A) “But not as the offense”- “But not in every respect”

1. This parallel contains within it a comparison as well, and it is there to magnify the one over and beyond the other (‘much more’)

2. **Similarities**

i. Both representatives of men

a) Heb 10:5-7

b) None of their offspring excluded

ii. Both heads of specific races

a) 1 Cor 15:20-22 & 45-47

1) Notice “last Adam” and not “2nd Adam”

iii. Both had covenants with God

iv. Both pass the fruit of their works on to their progeny

a) All the seed receive all the cause and effect

3. **Contrasts** (But we do not let the differences destroy the general parallel of the example, they instead magnify the glory of the one over the other)

i. **General difference overall**

a) Natural relationship (Adam-reign of sin) -vs- spiritual relationship (Christ-reign of grace)

1) 1st birth inferior to 2nd birth (1 Cor 15:20-52)

(a) Joined to mortal man -vs- immortal man

(b) Joined unto created being -vs- the Creator of all

(c) Joined unto child of disobedience -vs- Only Begotten of God

ii. **Specific differences**

a) Rom 6:23- Death contrasted with life

- 1) The “offense” compared to the “free gift”
- 2) Wages are earned/deserved, but the free gift is unmerited
- b) “The many” contrasted with each other
 - 1) The “many” isn’t to be taken as a quantity, it is to be set against the singular (“one”)
 - (a) One sin -vs- many sins
 - (b) 1 sin was followed by judgment, and yet many sins are followed by righteousness
 - (c) If Adam had committed just the one sin, death would still have passed to us all, even though we never sin, and therefore Christ would have had to perform the exact same work and suffered the exact same punishment for “man”
 - (1) Yet Adam continued to sin, many times, and his billions of offspring have sinned trillions of times (Rom 1:29-32- natural decline)
 - (2) Now consider the glory of the power, perfection and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, and just how efficacious is His blood
- c) The reign of death contrasted with the reign of grace (Rom 5:9-10)
 - 1) Our connection to Adam and the outcome is sure and certain, how much more our connection to Christ
 - 2) If physical death is certain because of the relationship to Adam, how much more certain is spiritual life because of the relationship to Christ
 - 3) If God’s justice/righteousness are certain, how much more His love/mercy
 - (a) God’s mercy and love are His greatest attributes, He “delights” to show mercy
 - (1) Compare with Moses on the Mount
 - (b) If God did what He promised in Adam, how much more so in Christ

III. The Abounding character of God’s grace

- A) Rom 5:20- “Where sin abounded, grace doth much more abound”
 1. Grace- “That quality in God which leads Him to be gracious to and to bless the utterly undeserving”- Philip Doddridge
 - i. Paul keeps emphasizing this:
 - a) Rom 5:6- While we were yet without strength
 - b) Rom 5:6- While we were ungodly
 - c) Rom 5:8- While we were yet sinners
 - d) Rom 5:10- While we were enemies
- B) John 1:16- “Fulness of His grace” (grace upon grace.....)
 1. Eph 1:3-4- All spiritual blessings in Christ

- i. Blessings abound where Christ reigns
- ii. Grace doesn't stop at forgiveness of sins, and we must never stop there in our thinking, forgiveness is a means to an end
 - a) Double portion- God did not simply plan to save us from hell and restore us to Adam's position, to think so is to deny the sovereignty of God and His plan of redemption
 - 1) Adam had a human righteousness which he lost, but God planned a righteousness for His children far beyond that, it is Christ's righteousness (Rom 3:24)
 - (a) Rom 8:29-30- Conformed to the image of His Son!