

## Team Adam or Team Jesus?

Romans 5:12-21

The stories of two Adams demonstrate the gospel:

- Verse 12: The first Adam chose to defy God's authority, and his choice caused death to descend on all people. This is the doctrine of original sin. God says that Adam is our representative -- what Adam chose is what we would have chosen if we were in the same situation. Since then we have continued to sin, ratifying Adam's choice. The result of Adam's choice (which we would have made) is physical and spiritual death.
- Verses 14-15 and 17: The concept of representation is great news! If the whole world was put under sin by one man, salvation can come through one man. The first man Adam selfishly disobeyed God and ate from the tree for himself, the second Adam sacrificially obeyed God and took the curse upon Himself for all of us. We are born into the choice of the first Adam, and have to make a choice to accept Jesus, the second Adam.
- Verse 18, Jesus brings justification and life and offers it to ***all men***. We know we are not justified automatically like we are born into original sin. Verse 17 and other scriptures (e.g. Romans 10:9-10, John 3:36) that show that receiving that salvation requires us to believe and trust in Him.

### ***Questions to consider:***

Have you seen evidence in your life of your own rebelliousness against God and desire to sin? Times when you've felt you know better than God, or chosen to do what you want to do rather than what God wants? Would you say you have been living on Team Adam or Team Jesus? Have you surrendered your life to Jesus? If you've been following Jesus, is He calling to surrender your pride, selfishness, or misplaced priorities to Him this week?

### What about those without the Law?

- Verses 13 and 20: original sin caused us to sin before Moses gave the Law, but the Law revealed to us our sinfulness.
- When we have knowledge of right and wrong, the Law has effect. When someone does not know the Law, they are not held accountable. (See also John 9:41, Deuteronomy 1:39). Therefore babies or those who are mentally challenged and cannot understand the law are exempt from its requirements.

- Romans 2:14 says that we all have the Law of God in our hearts and we have chosen to suppress that knowledge. Verses 20-21 remind us that God's grace has abounded even more than our sinfulness and that eternal life in Jesus is freely available to all who believe.

***Questions to consider:***

Does your heart break for the lost in our city? Knowing that the whole world is guilty of the sin of the first Adam, how can you deploy to share the good news of salvation through the second Adam? As you consider how you have used your time this past week, where have you invested in yourself rather than the lost around you? Has knowing Jesus and making Him known been your top priority? This week, how can you shift your focus to knowing Jesus more and reaching those who do not yet know Him?