

Death through Adam, Life through Jesus
Romans 5:12-19

The United States is a representative democracy. We elect representatives who work on our behalf. Once the representative is elected by the votes of the people, he or she then takes it from there. Representation can be good, or bad or anywhere in between based on the one doing the representing.

In all of history there are two men who have been in the position of representing all of humanity...

Adam and Jesus

We are all born in Adam. We need to be born again in Christ.
Being in Adam is death and sin. Being in Christ is life and righteousness.

Here's another way to say it:

In Adam, all die. In Jesus, all live eternally.
In Adam, all receive condemnation. In Jesus, all receive justification.

Key point based on Rom 5:12 – *We know that sin is in the world because death is in the world.*

Key point based on Rom 5:13 - *People sinned even before the law was given.*

Ok, so how do you sin before the law is given? Before God says, do this and don't do that?

Look at it this way:

Just because you are not told that murder is wrong, doesn't mean it's okay to commit murder.

The function of the law was to introduce people to their sin.

The law reveals the reality of sin that has always been present in humanity. See Rom 3:20 and Rom 2:15.

There are two key concepts in this passage. Representation and Imputation.

Representation – Adam and then Jesus act on our behalf.

Imputation – Adam's sin is imputed to us.

Our sin is imputed to Jesus.

The righteousness of Jesus is imputed to us!

Through our first representative Adam, we are plunged into ruin.

Through our second representative Jesus, we receive new life.

Adam: Through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men.

Jesus: Through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.

Adam: Through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners.

Jesus: Through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of his grace.

Home Group Discussion Questions:

How do you react to the idea of representation?

Your first representation was in Adam.

Your second representation was in Jesus.

How do you react to the idea of imputation?

1) Adam's sin was imputed to you.

2) Your sin was imputed to Jesus.

3) The righteousness of Jesus has been imputed to you.

How is it different to say, "I sometimes commit sins," from saying, "I'm a sinner" (Romans 5:12)? Why is the latter so much deeper and more serious?

Do you find it hard to believe that Jesus' one act of obedience can change you from a sinner to a righteous saint (Romans 5:15–17)? Why would your pride prefer this transformation to be done in some other way?

How does God's overflowing grace change the way you think of yourself (Romans 5:20–21)? How does it change the way you think about those outside the Church?