

Two kinds of people: Adam and Christ

Romans 5: 12-21

1. Have you ever been affected by someone else's decision? It could be a decision in your family, at work, at school, or in society. Even though it wasn't made by you, it changed your life. How did that experience make you feel?
2. In verse 12 Paul points out that sin entered the world through one person, and death came because of sin. What phenomena in today's world do you think reflect the impact of sin? Sin isn't just a personal issue; it also affects the whole world. How does this idea give you new insights?
3. Verse 14 says that Adam was a foreshadow of the one who was to come. Why does Paul compare Adam and Christ together? Do you think this kind of comparison helps us understand any traits of Christ better?
4. Paul often compares Adam's sin with Christ's grace. In verse 15, what do you see as the biggest difference between the two? Why does Paul emphasize that grace is "more abundant"?
5. Many people know they are guilty but doubt whether God is willing to forgive them. How does verse 16 help someone who often feels indebted or like a failure? Have you ever doubted God's grace because of your own weaknesses?
6. Verse 17 mentions that believers are to "reign in life." What do you think this phrase means? Does it mean that Christians no longer face difficulties, or does it refer to another kind of life state? What areas in your life today need to experience Christ's victory and authority?
7. Verses 18-19 sharply contrast Adam and Christ (One man's disobedience made many sinners; One man's obedience made many righteous). Where is Christ's obedience ultimately shown? What lessons do you learn from His obedience?
8. Verse 20 mentions that the law came in so that the trespass might increase. What do you think the purpose of the law is? Why does God want people to see their sins more clearly instead of just feeling a bit better?
9. Verses 21 points out: "Just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness." How do you think the reign of grace would show up concretely in a person's life? How is this different from a life where you try to earn acceptance through your own effort and performance?
10. Paul shows us that all humanity is under two representatives (in Adam: sin, condemnation, death; in Christ: grace, justification, life.) For the coming week, which specific action are you willing to take? (For example: thank God daily for salvation in Christ; pray for a friend who is still living under a sense of condemnation; when feeling weak or failing, practice returning to the gospel instead of blaming yourself)