

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Better Representative

Romans 5:15-19

Introduction: In Romans 5:15-21, Paul further explains the relationship between Adam and Christ that he introduced in verse 14. Adam is a type of Christ, a pattern, a forerunner of a future Son of God who was to come.

Paul highlights the similarity between Adam and Christ as representative heads of the human race – Adam of all people and Christ of all who believe in Him. The bulk of Paul's comparison between Adam and Christ in this passage though, is one of contrast.

Paul's aim is to show the surpassing worth of Christ compared to Adam. The reason Paul is showing this is to strengthen the assurance of believers in Jesus Christ: nothing can come against our salvation in Him.

- **Key question:** Do you know what is true of you since you are in Christ?

Questions

1. What similarities are there between Adam and Christ? Not just what is mentioned in this passage: put on your "whole Bible" cap: what is true of Adam that is similarly true of Christ? (*see study notes below)
2. What differences are there between Adam and Christ? Paul walks through five results of Adam's sin on humanity in Romans 5:15-19. Paul walks through five greater and better results of Christ's work in Romans 5:15-19. Identify these five differences.
3. What impact does the work of Christ have on you personally? On your perspective and priorities in life?
4. What impact does the work of Christ have on the body of Redeemer Church? What encouragement and confidence can we draw from His work?
5. Paul's use of typology in this passage is central to the points he makes and is a key element of the overall storyline of the Bible. How can your understanding of typology in Scripture grow your appreciation for God and His Word? Your dependence on God and His Word? Your worship of God? (*see study notes below)

* **Study notes for question 1:** The similarity Paul establishes in Romans 5 between Adam and Christ is that they both represent humanity. We saw last week that Adam was God's image bearer who God created to rule over the world (king), represent God in the world (priest) through godly living, and proclaim God's truth in the world through word and deed (prophet) as he lived according to God's good rule. Adam failed in this commission, failing to protect Eve from the lies of the serpent, living according to his own rule/agenda in the world, and choosing to live for himself instead of God.

Adam failed as God's prophet/priest/king and his actions introduced condemnation and death into the world.

Paul's main objective is to show how Christ's representation of people is just as real and certain as Adam's, except with far greater and better effect. Repeatedly Paul uses contrast to show that Christ is a better Adam, one who is the perfect prophet, priest, and king, who came to restore fallen humanity into relationship with God.

Everyone who personally professes faith in Christ receives justification from God by grace and certainty of right relationship with God. This certainty is based on Jesus' perfect obedience, sacrificial death, and victory-clinching resurrection.

* **Study notes for question 5:** Typology is one key way God has put the story of the Bible together. A type in the Bible is a person, institution, or event that God has designed to point ahead to Christ, who perfectly fulfills them. Typology is not arbitrary; we can objectively see and understand typology in Scripture. Typology differs from allegory, as Southern Seminary Professor Steve Wellum explains:

"Typology is a feature of divine revelation rooted in history and the text. It involves an organic relation between "persons, events, and institutions" in one epoch ("type") and their counterparts in later epochs ("antitype"). Since typology is God-given and rooted in the text, it is to be distinguished from allegory, which is not rooted in history or authorial intent, and often is more in the eye of the reader than actually in the text and something we exegetically discover."

We can identify types through a historical-redemptive interpretation of Scripture that reads the Bible as having one divine author who is progressing one storyline through the 66 books of the Bible. Interpreting the Bible in a historical and redemptive way preserves both the human and divine intent of each text and the Bible as a whole.

- When I say historical, I am including literal/grammatical: this form of study examines the words of each passage and studies each passage in its immediate context.
- When I say redemptive, I mean noticing and studying God's plan of salvation that is revealed in the Bible progressively across all of Scripture.

Redemptive pattern of Scripture:

- 1) Creation: God is the holy and loving Creator who made everything, and it was good.
- 2) Fall: Man has inherent value, being created in the image of God. Following Adam's direct disobedience of God's command, however, every human being is a sinner by nature and by choice. We are separated from God because of our sin. That sin comes from our nature – it is not a small thing.
- 3) Redemption: Man needs a savior. All through the Bible we see "little s" saviors who come along and deliver God's people (David, Samson, Gideon, etc.). But the deliverance never lasts, and all those saviors die. The little s saviors we encounter throughout the Bible are types of Jesus Christ, the risen capital s Savior who conquered sin and death. This came after His perfect life – Jesus is the last and better Adam.
- 4) Response/New Creation: Men respond with repentance and faith. All who confess Christ as Savior and submit to Him as Lord become a part of God's people. In Christ, we are adopted into God's family.