

Alive in Christ

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Pastor Tim Block · AM Service

Text: [Romans 5:12, 17-21](#) | [1 John 2:15-17](#) | [1 Corinthians 15:22](#)

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." — [1 Corinthians 15:22](#)

This world has a current — and it is pushing and pulling at us all the time. The question is: what direction is it pulling us? And toward what end? God's Word is clear: **Sin brings death. Christ brings life.**

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." — [1 John 2:15](#)

I. CAUGHT UP IN THE CURRENT — [Romans 5:12](#)

Your identity is either in Adam or in Jesus. Adam sinned — and the entire human race felt the consequences. Scripture uses three words to describe sin in this passage:

1. "Sin" (v. 12) — to miss the mark
2. "Offence" (v. 18) — a willful trespass, a deliberate step off the path
3. "Disobedience" (v. 19) — neglect or disregard of what is right: *"The rules don't apply to me."*

A. How Sin Entered the World — Genesis 3

God created Adam and Eve in communion with Him — paradise, every need met. Satan tempted them, just as he tempts us today, through three avenues:

- **Lust of the Flesh** — satisfying legitimate needs in illegitimate ways (*"good for food"* — [Genesis 3:6](#))
- **Lust of the Eyes** — desire for the forbidden (*"pleasant to the eyes"* — [Genesis 3:6](#))
- **Pride of Life** — self-centered ego (*"ye shall be as gods"* — [Genesis 3:5](#))

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." — [1 John 2:16](#)

B. The Result of Sin — [Romans 5:12](#)

Sin entered the world through one man's choice — and it has been pushing and pulling people toward destruction ever since. Three levels of death result from sin:

1. A life devoid of purpose and joy — *"the world is passing away and the lusts thereof"* ([1 John 2:17](#))
2. Physical death
3. Spiritual and eternal death — *"the lake of fire"* ([Revelation 20:14](#))

C. Cooperating with the Current — [Romans 5:12b](#)

"...all have sinned." Just as Satan tempted Adam — through the flesh, the eyes, and the pride of life — he tempts us too. And just like Adam, we cannot stand up to the pressure on our own.

Only your love for God will drive out the love of the world from your heart. How do you cultivate that love?

- **Worship** — filling your mind with truth about God's greatness
- **The Word** — more time in Scripture than in social media
- **Community** — friends and groups that genuinely love God

II. THE CONTRAST — In Adam vs. In Christ

[Romans 5:17–18](#) draws a striking contrast between what we inherit in Adam and what we receive in Christ:

In Adam:

- Offence · Death reigned · Judgment · Condemnation

In Christ:

- Abundance of grace · Reign in life · Free gift · Justification of life

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." — [1 Corinthians 15:22](#)

III. THE RESCUER — Jesus Conquers the Current

You cannot get out of the current of sin on your own. You need a Rescuer — and His name is Jesus. Jesus faced the full force of Satan's temptations — the same three that defeated Adam — and conquered every one:

Matthew 4 — Jesus Tempted in the Wilderness:

- **Lust of the Flesh** — *"Turn these stones into bread"* (v. 3)
- **Pride of Life** — *"If you are the Son of God, jump"* (v. 6)
- **Lust of the Eyes** — *"All the kingdoms of the world... if you will worship me"* (v. 9)

Jesus never gave in. He never sinned. He was obedient — all the way to the cross — where He died in our place.

"...by the obedience of one, many shall be made righteous." — [Romans 5:19](#)

"...where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." — [Romans 5:20](#)

Personal Reflection Questions

Lust of the Flesh

"What pleasures or desires are beginning to control me?"

1. When I've had a difficult day, what do I most often run to for comfort — food, alcohol, entertainment, social media, shopping, pornography, sleep, or God?
2. Are there any habits that I know are unhealthy or sinful but continue because they simply feel too good to give up?
3. Do I ever sacrifice time with God, my family, or church because I'm pursuing comfort, convenience, or recreation?

4. How often do I choose what feels good in the moment rather than what is right in the long run?
 5. Have I become impatient or irritable when my comfort is interrupted – whether that's waiting in line, sitting in traffic, serving others, or giving up my preferences?
 6. Am I pursuing purity in my thought life, my entertainment choices, and my relationships, or have I quietly lowered my standards?
 7. If someone looked only at my schedule and spending habits, would they conclude that I'm living to satisfy myself or to serve Christ?
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Lust of the Eyes

"What do I see that makes me want more?"

1. When I'm scrolling through social media, do I leave thankful for God's blessings or wishing I had someone else's house, vacation, marriage, body, income, or lifestyle?
 2. Is there something I'm convinced I *have to own* before I'll feel happy or successful?
 3. Do advertisements and influencers shape my desires more than Scripture shapes my contentment?
 4. Have I ever stretched my budget – or gone into debt – to impress people or keep up with everyone else?
 5. When someone else receives the promotion, the recognition, the new vehicle, or the beautiful home, is my first reaction gratitude for them or jealousy?
 6. Am I entertained by things that slowly feed sinful desires – whether sexual temptation, greed, materialism, or violence?
 7. What captures my attention most throughout the week – God's Word or a screen?
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Pride of Life

"Where am I trying to make much of myself instead of Christ?"

1. How disappointed am I when my work, ministry, or efforts go unnoticed or unappreciated?
 2. Do I secretly enjoy being viewed as the smartest person in the room, the most spiritual person in church, or the most successful person at work?
 3. When someone disagrees with me, do I genuinely listen – or immediately begin planning my defense?
 4. Am I willing to admit when I'm wrong, apologize, and ask forgiveness – or do I always need to explain myself?
 5. Do I serve in church primarily because I love Jesus, or because I enjoy the recognition, influence, or appreciation?
 6. Is my identity rooted more in my job title, parenting, achievements, education, ministry role, political opinions, or hobbies than in being a child of God?
 7. When life reminds me I'm not in control – a health issue, financial setback, unanswered prayer, or change of plans – do I humbly trust God or become angry that my plans have been disrupted?
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A Few Heart-Level Questions

These often expose all three categories at once.

- What do I daydream about most often?
- What am I afraid of losing?
- What would disappoint me most if God took it away tomorrow?
- What sin have I become comfortable managing instead of confronting?
- Where have I slowly drifted rather than suddenly fallen?
- If Jesus lovingly walked through every room of my life today, what room would I hope He skipped?
- What would those who know me best say I truly love?

If someone watched my life for one month — my calendar, bank account, internet history, conversations, and reactions — would they conclude that I love Jesus most, or that something else has captured my heart?

Personal Takeaways

Enter any thoughts about today's message.