



Connect Discussion Guide
02.20.22 Message | Chuck Sackett | Romans 5:12-21

Key Scriptures:

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...

- Romans 3:23-24

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Romans 5:12-21

Message Highlights:

- The power of sin and death dominates and enslaves those “in Adam”
- The power of grace transforms and liberates those “in Christ”
- Christ is like Adam in that what he did affects all people. But, unlike Adam who brought death, Christ brings life
- It is this twin reality of forgiveness and liberation that begins humanity’s restoration to the experience of God’s righteousness and glory for which it was created

Conversation Starter:

When was the last time you had to ask someone to give you grace for a mistake or oversight of yours? Was that ask a difficult or easy one for you? Share with your group.

Discuss the Message:

1. Read through today's passage again, breaking the passage into three sections (Romans 5:12-14; Romans 5:15-17; and Romans 5:18-21). Have a different group member read each section. Take note of how the language changes as the passage progresses. Contrast what it means to be "in Adam" versus "in Christ".
2. Our sin is powerful: it leads to death, it impacts all of us, it grows. How does God's grace help us foster a healthy hatred of sin while making sure that guilt and shame do not drive us back into sinful behaviors or patterns?
3. How would you describe the grace of God in your own words? What are some things that grace has accomplished for us according to today's passage?
4. Romans 5:12-21 displays that God's grace is *super-abundant*. Why does it matter that we remember that God's grace is in fact abundant? How might this change the way we react to the struggles with sin we experience daily?
5. There is nothing for you to do to defeat death because Jesus has already liberated us from sin by redeeming and restoring our life. How does it strike you that the price for your sin has already been paid and eternal life is yours, for FREE, through Jesus Christ our Lord?

Pray:

Father in Heaven, we praise you and thank you because you have rescued us from the power of sin and death forever through your Son, Jesus our Christ. We rejoice in the freedom of new life that you have given us! We pray that by your Spirit working through us, we might share the hope of Christ with others so that they, too, can receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness through Jesus. Amen.