

TWO MEN: OPPOSITE EFFECTS **(Romans 5:12-21)**

I. The difference (vs. 12, 18-19).

- A. One man brought sin into the world.
 - 1. We know this man to be Adam.
 - 2. He was beguiled by Eve and gave into temptation.
- B. When sin came into the world, it brought death with it.
 - 1. Until sin entered the world, there was access to the tree of life.
 - 2. No one had to die with access to that tree.
- C. However, sin came in and God removed access to that tree.
- D. Adam opened up the door for mankind to sin and now all sin so all die.
- E. All men die, both young and old, rich or poor.
- F. But death here is more than just physical death.
 - 1. It also includes spiritual death.
 - 2. Death is separation.
 - 3. Sin causes separation from the Sustainer of life.
 - 4. So not only did sin bring physical death, it brought about spiritual death as well.
- G. Because of Adam's sin, you and I all face condemnation.
 - 1. Not because we bear his sin.
 - 2. Ezekiel tells us that the soul that sins will die and the children don't bear the iniquity of the fathers.
 - 3. We face condemnation because we all sin.
- H. As death came by Adam, justification of life came by One, Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Adam affected man by bringing in death, but Jesus affected man by bringing in a free gift from God.
 - 2. Condemnation came by Adam but righteousness came by Jesus.
- I. Verse 19 says the same thing in a different way.
 - 1. Men became sinners by one man's disobedience.
 - 2. Men become righteous by One man's obedience.
 - 3. We need to realize that neither of these are unconditional.
 - a. If they were then we would all be guilty of Adam's sin and everyone would be righteous because of Christ's obedience.
 - b. However, both are optional because no one is guilty of sin until he disobeys God and one is justified until he obeys God's law of pardon.

II. The definition (vs. 13-17).

- A. In these verses, Paul defines what he meant in verse 12.
- B. There was sin in the world from Adam to Moses, even though there was no written law, there was still sin.
- C. Even though no one committed the same sin as Adam, man still sinned.
 - 1. Adam's law was to not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
 - 2. No one else could do that, so their sins were different from that of Adam.

- D. Notice that Adam is called the figure of Christ.
 - 1. The word figure means type of likeness.
 - 2. In 1 Corinthians 15:45, Adam and Jesus were called the first and second Adam.
 - 3. Adam is a type of Christ in several ways:
 - a. He is the head of the physical race while Jesus is the Head of the spiritual race.
 - b. Both had a miraculous entrance into the world.
 - c. Both entered free from sin.
 - d. Both have God as their Father.
 - e. Both capable of being tempted.
 - f. Both received name from God.
 - g. Both given a bride.
 - h. Adam fell into a deep sleep before being given a bride while Jesus had the sleep of death before His bride was given.
 - i. Both had their sides opened before bride given.
 - j. Both have only one bride.
 - k. Both have authority over their own bride.
 - l. Bride took the name of the husband.
- E. Paul then reveals to us the greatness of grace in verse 15.
 - 1. Adam's sin was bad but God's grace is greater.
 - 2. It overcomes death as well as gives greater blessings than Eden could offer in the gaining of heaven.
 - 3. No matter how bad life may be, the grace of God brings great blessings that far outweigh these hardships.
- F. Not only that, but one sin caused all men to be condemned, but by one Man, it is possible that all men can be forgiven of many sins.
- G. Death reigned by one man but life comes by one Man for all men.

III. **The dominance (vs. 20-21).**

- A. We tend to think of death as being dominant.
 - 1. The fact is, despite the fact that all die, there is a return.
 - 2. Because of Jesus, all men will be resurrected.
- B. Death is not dominant, grace is.
 - 1. Wherever, there is sin, there is grace for that sin.
 - 2. What mankind lost in Adam, is more than replaced in Christ.
- C. Sin did reign in death but Jesus was dominant over death and allowed righteousness to be had by all through God's grace, which leads to eternal life.
- D. Sin is bad, but grace is greater.