

ASHLAND MEN

SESSION 3 | DOMINION: IT'S LIFE OR DEATH

Adam's sin brought death into the world

¹² 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-

The law brought guilt into the world

¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ 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.

Adam's sin = condemnation | God's grace = justification

*¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ And the **free gift** is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought **condemnation** ^{16b} but the free gift following many trespasses brought **justification**.*

Adam's sin = reign of death | Jesus' righteousness = reign of life

¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ 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.

The law won't fix sin. The law leads to Jesus who does

²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In Adam, we live under the reign of death by guilt deserving condemnation

- Under the reign of death, we spiral into guilt and condemnation

- Under the reign of death passivity and law cultivates guilt and condemnation

In Jesus we live under the reign of life justified by grace leads to more life

- Under the reign of life, we enjoy grace and gospel

- Under the reign of life, grace and gospel cultivate life for others

Homework

Read Genesis 3 and then Romans 5 Reflect on the freedom from sin that is found in the reign of life in Jesus. Spend time thanking God for the gospel.

Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21

The Reign of Death in Adam

What specific sin causes a reign of death in your life? Is there a specific struggle that keeps you in a death spiral of sin, guilt, and condemnation? Discuss this pattern in your life. Write out specific actions of dominion that would short-circuit this spiral with grace, gospel, and life.

When it comes to this sin, how are you tempted to try and “fix” it yourself with law and not gospel? What does this look like? How has your approach led to even more guilt and condemnation?

The Reign of Life in Jesus

What sin do you have the most trouble believing has been replaced and covered by the righteous life of Christ before God? Why do you believe it’s so hard for you to trust in Jesus’ work for you when it comes to this specific sin?

How will you take dominion over this sin by confessing, repenting, and believing the gospel? What specifically will you do as an act of dominion in Christ to remind yourself of the gospel as you struggle with this sin?

Discipline and Dominion by Grace

What disciplines seem the most burdensome to you? How would being reminded that you are a son in the Son whom the Father loves cause you to delight more in spiritual disciplines? What would this look like?

When rebuked and convicted by the word do you feel condemned as a slave or corrected as a son? Write out a prayer by faith that will help remind you of your sonship when you are corrected.

In suffering are you tempted to think you are being judged for disobedience or being conformed to the image of the Son? Write out a prayer by faith that will help remind you of your sonship when you suffer.

When you serve others or take part in spiritual disciplines do you feel more like a slave or a son? Write out a prayer by faith that will help remind you to embrace your identity as a son when serving or participating in spiritual disciplines.

What spiritual disciplines in your life are most helpful in reminding you of the gospel? How does this discipline help see yourself in Christ? Why does this discipline produce the most confidence in the gospel? How will you engage more in this discipline or activity?

Taking Dominion Under the Reign of Life

In which relationships do you tend to offer more guilt and condemnation instead of grace and gospel?

- Classmates
- Kids
- Wife
- Close friends
- Church members
- Employees
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Why do these relationships seem to invoke more condemnation than grace?

Does your leadership in these contexts display a reign of death or life? Do you bring about guilt and condemnation or grace and gospel? What characterizes your leadership (harshness | overbearing | frustration | anger) What does this produce in others? (insecurity | fear | happiness | joy | freedom | exasperation)

	Life or Death	Guilt or Grace	Characteristics	Results in others
Home				
Work				
Church				
Social				

Why did you answer the way you did concerning...

Home

Work

Church

Social (friendships)

What is one significant change you can make in each of these areas to cultivate the reign of life by grace?

My kids find their identity in _____ (academics, my approval, athletics, etc.) This leads to _____ (happiness, insecurity, etc) What responsibility do you bear in this? What things can you do to encourage them to find their identity in Christ?

My wife finds her identity _____ (being a wife, mom, career, ministry, etc.) this leads to _____ (joy, despair, happiness, frustration, loneliness) What responsibility do you bear in this? How can you help lead her to see her identity in Christ?