



THEOLOGY OF MANHOOD

SESSION 3

ADAM OR CHRIST: IT'S DEATH OR LIFE

In Romans 5, Paul wants to explain the supremacy of Jesus' rule of grace, justification, and life in light of Adam's rule of sin, guilt, condemnation and death. He teaches that Adam is a type of Christ. Adam, like Jesus, represented us before God. Adam represents us in sin that led to guilt, condemnation, and death. Jesus represents us in righteousness that leads to grace, justification, and life. The choice is ours. We can continue to live under the reign of Adam where the law brings forth guilt and continues to condemn you. Or you can live under the reign of Christ where the grace of the gospel justifies and saves you.

Sin, Death, Guilt, and Condemnation in Adam

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- 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.

- Roman 5:12-14

Sin | *to miss the mark*

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

- Romans 3:23

Glory can be defined as weight and can refer to one's authority. Adam missed the mark of God's authority. When he sinned, he fell short. Instead of asserting glory like God, who preserved life, Adam failed and led us into death.

Death | *separation from God*

Adam transgressed. He stepped outside the lines of goodness and life that God had ordained in the world. Now, because of Adam, we all arrive in the world separated from God, spiritually dead. We inherited from Adam a natural disposition to further separate ourselves from God by rebelling against his word that brings life.

Guilt and Condemnation

God's law was given to show how we miss the mark and fall short. The law declares us guilty, proving, like Adam, we all deserve death.

In sin, we deserve death.

In Jesus there is grace, righteousness, justification and life.

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 but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. 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.

-Roman 5:15-19

Grace | *unmerited favor despite what we deserve*

Unlike the sin Grace gives us something we haven't and cannot earn the free gift. What is this free gift?

Justification | *the act whereby God declares us righteous or not guilty in Christ despite the fact that we are guilty and unrighteous*

In Adam, we get what we deserve – condemnation.

In Jesus, we get what we don't deserve – the free gift of Jesus' righteousness.

Questions

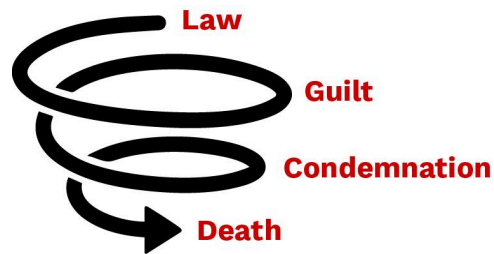
How do you experience the consequences of Adam's sin daily? How have you personally experienced the death that comes from obeying God's word? Why are you thankful for God's grace?

The Choice: Live in Adam by the Law, or Live In Christ by Grace

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.

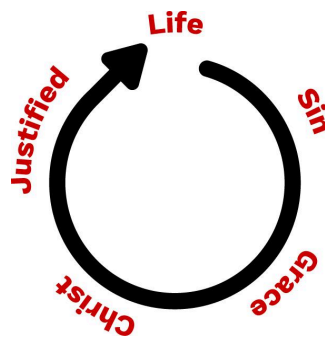
- Romans 5:20-21

The Death Spiral of the Law



Conviction → “Do better! Man up! Have Grit!” → disciplined effort, works = more guilt, condemnation, and death

The Life Cycle of Grace



Living in Grace

How do I break from the death spiral and find life in the grace of the gospel?

- Embracing your identity in Christ
 - Establish *REMINDERS* of grace
 - Establish habits *IN* grace

Question

What strategies and tools can you implement daily to make sure you are reminded of grace? What changes can you make to ensure you engage in the spiritual disciplines as habits of grace?

Leading by Grace

Men who live under the reign of death in Adam tend to pull others down into the abyss of guilt, condemnation, and death. Men who live under the reign of Christ, justified by grace in life, seek to push others toward life in Christ.

- Wife
- Kids
- Co Worker
- Church
- Friends

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Homework

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

2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Timothy 1:15, Romans 5:6

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.

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 to trust in Jesus' work for you when it comes to this specific sin?

How are you tempted to try and “fix” yourself with the law instead of the gospel?
How has your approach led to even more guilt and condemnation?

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?

What strategies and tools can you implement daily to make sure you are reminded of grace? What changes can you make to ensure you engage the spiritual disciplines as habits of 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?

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.

[illegible]

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

- [illegible]

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 | | | | |

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, etc).

What responsibility do you bear in this?

How can you help lead her to see her identity in Christ?

[illegible]

