



Kicking Off

Q Have you ever been bullied?

How did it feel.

A bully makes life miserable for those they bully.

Satan, sin and death bullied everyone. We were unable to stand up to them and they ruled over us. But Jesus came and put an end to the bullies' rule. He has broken the old regime of Satan, sin, and death, & has brought in a new regime of life & grace & righteousness which we now participate in. But Jesus brought an end to the old regime not by bashing Satan up. It had to be done another way.

Let's take a look:



Digging Deeper

Read Romans 5:12-21

Q In verses 12-14 Paul outlines the doctrine of Original Sin. What do you understand Original sin to mean?

Adam, as the first man was the representative of the entire human race. When Adam sinned, all of humanity were in his loins and so when we were born we were all born sinners like Adam.

Q Does that mean we are not responsible for our sin? Explain.

Now of course it's not like we can blame it all on Adam. Sin entered the world because of him, but we all sin, voluntarily. No-one coerces us. And we are responsible for our sin. But Adam got us into this mess.

Q What does it mean in v14 that Adam is the pattern of the one to come? The good news is: although 1 representative got us into this mess, another representative got us out of it.

Q What does v17 mean?

The whole story of the human race can be summed up in terms of what Adam has done and what Christ has done. All people are born into the old realm, the realm of Adam. But through Christ's death & resurrection we have been transferred into the new realm of Christ. Our old self has become a new creation. We are no longer slaves to sin but slaves to God. We are no longer ruled by the law but by grace. We are no longer dominated by the flesh, but empowered by the Spirit. We are no longer condemned to eternal death but are destined for eternal life.

All people are born into the old realm, and there you stay unless you are born again and have faith in Christ, when you are transferred out of the old realm into the new, and all Jesus' benefits are yours. You got into the old realm by being born, You get into the new realm by being born again.

Q Read v18 What is the comparison between Adam's disobedience and Christ's obedience? Adam was told he would enjoy blessing if he obeyed God, yet he chose to disobey.

Sermon Based Bible Study Romans 5:12-21

Jesus knew he would face suffering & death if he obeyed God, yet he walked in absolute obedience. Adam's disobedience meant that all people were condemned, Jesus' obedience means that all his people will be made righteous. Just 1 act of unrighteousness would have disqualified Jesus from being able to make his people righteous, but he was obedient from beginning to end.

Q How is the gift not like the trespass in v15?

One act of disobedience from Adam had massive consequences. It would take a massive job to fix it. That's what Jesus has done. When the sin of Adam multiplied and multiplied & snowballed & snowballed and became more and more depraved, the grace of God abounded & abounded & overflowed & overflowed in Jesus. As sin increased grace increased and increased and increased. X's work undid all the disastrous and destructive effects of Adam's work.

It's perfectly right and understandable that Adam's one sin brought judgement. Transgression deserves condemnation. So you would have expected the many sins that have been committed by the whole world since Adam would bring great condemnation, right? But instead God responds to the sins and guilt of all the ages with grace and love in Jesus Christ, and gives us the very opposite of what we deserve, because judgment is not God's ultimate purpose for his universe. The ultimate purpose of history, the ultimate purpose of God in creating and governing the world the way he has, is to display the glory of his grace in Jesus.



Think it through

Winston Churchill's famous line was 'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few,' referring to the Royal Air Force pilots who were fighting the Battle of Britain in WW2. This is a great line but a greater truth is that so many owe so much to only one person - Jesus Christ.

Discuss