Romans 5 “Two Men”
Romans 5:12-21
November 15, 2026

Romans 5:12-21
12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned. 13 In fact, sin was in the world before the law, but sin is not charged to a person’s account when there is no law.
14 Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam’s transgression. He is a type of the Coming One.
15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if by the one man’s trespass the many died, how much more have the grace of God and the gift which comes through the grace of the one man Jesus Christ overflowed to the many. 16 And the gift is not like the one man’s sin, because from one sin came the judgment, resulting in condemnation, but from many trespasses came the gift, resulting in justification. 17 If by the one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive the overflow of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.
18 So then, as through one trespass there is condemnation for everyone, so also through one righteous act there is justification leading to life for everyone. 19 For just as through one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous. 20 The law came along to multiply the trespass. But where sin multiplied, grace multiplied even more 21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace will reign through righteousness, resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christianity is understood as a representational likeness.

Romans 5:12
12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned.

Death spread to all people because all sin *like* Adam and *with* Adam.

Genesis 1:27
27 So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

Luke 3:38
38 son of Enos, son of Seth, son of Adam, son of God.

Genesis 5:3
3 Adam was 130 years old when he fathered a son in his likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.

Adam’s likeness was connected to death.

1 Corinthians 15:22
22 For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

We need a second Adam to represent us.

Romans 5:15
15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if by the one man's trespass the many died, how much more have the grace of God and the gift which comes through the grace of the one man Jesus Christ overflowed to the many.

One man for the many.

Joshua 7:11
11 Israel has sinned. They have violated my covenant that I appointed for them. They have taken some of what was set apart. They have stolen, deceived, and put those things with their own belongings.

Romans 5:17-
17 If by the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive the overflow of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

We get more in Jesus than we ever lost in Adam.

1 Corinthians 15:45-49
45 So it is written, The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, then the spiritual. 47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 Like the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; like the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. Adam was of earth. Jesus is of heaven.

Christ elevates us higher than a sinless Adam.

Galatians 3:26
26 for through faith you are all sons of God in Christ Jesus.

The status given to all believers is the status of the Son himself.

Life Group Discussion Questions
1.) What did God say to you through His Scriptures during our Sunday gathering?
2.) Have you ever inherited something from a family member? Now think of something that isn't a financial inheritance. Any traits? Qualities? Interests?
3.) Have you ever been recognized because you bear a family resemblance?

4.) Read Romans 5:12-14. What was passed on to us through Adam? How do we bear his likeness?
5.) Can you explain why Paul's contrast and comparison of Adam and Jesus is so central to our justification?
6.) Were you ever the representative of a group or team? What were responsibilities as the representative?
7.) What do we receive through Adam's representation?
8.) "The gift is not like the trespass." How the gift different? Discuss the idea that we gained more in Jesus than we lost in Adam.
9.) How has Romans 5 increased your confidence in our Christ-given justification? What would change if you were more secure in what Christ has accomplished for you?