

# LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

## How Can One Man Reconcile Humanity?

Romans 5:12-14

**Passages for further study:** Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15-17, 3:1-19; Romans 2:12, 4:15; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22, 45-49; Colossians 1:13-14.

**Introduction:** In this passage, Paul teaches about how sin came into the world: Adam sinned in the garden of Eden. Adam disobeyed God's explicit command and failed to keep the covenant God made with him. No mere "slip up" as Pastor John put it, this sin was rebellion against the one true God. The result is spiritual death for Adam and every person born after Adam. Adam represents every person after him as the head of humanity.

But this is not the end of the story. Adam was merely a type: he was a lesser pattern of a better man. The second and better Adam would come, the last Adam, one who always obeyed God. This Adam – Jesus Christ – not only lived a perfect life, but died the death we deserve, and rose again – conquering sin and death. Christ replaces Adam as the representative of everyone who has faith in Him. Because Christ is greater than Adam, everyone in Him has a hope that cannot be shaken; God has transferred us to the kingdom of His Son – we have eternal life (Rom 5:21, Col 1:13-14).

- **Key questions:**
  - Do you realize that you and every person on earth must be born again in Christ? (The answer to the problem of evil is not more education, it is a new heart through repentance and faith in Christ. What people need is not merely a moral improvement; they need a new nature/new heart/new identity.)
  - What impact should your new identity in Christ have on your life? What impact is it having on your life?

### Questions

1. In Genesis 1, God called everything in his original creation good. Sin enters the world through the transgression of Adam (Gen 3:1-19). What implications does this have for why there is evil in the world? What implications does this have for how we can address evil in the world? In us?
2. What does verse 12 teach us about how sin entered the world?

Adam's disobedience of God stemmed from a lack of trust in Him – Adam doubted the goodness and reliability of God and instead chose to side with the serpent. Adam's choice to sin was a dethroning of God or literally a "deGodding of God" (D.A. Carson).

3. Do you view sin with this level of seriousness? What implications does sin's penalty being death and your condition as a fallen sinner have for your need for a Savior?
4. What must be true of someone who could save you?
5. Verse 14 describes Adam as a "type" of Christ. What are some types you have noticed in Scripture lately? How has thinking about how Jesus is greater than that type grown your worship of Him?

Definition of type: "Old Testament persons, institutions, or events that have a divinely intended function of prefiguring the final age inaugurated by Christ" (Doug Moo, *Epistle to the Romans*, pp. 333-334).

This means persons, institutions, or events that God has designed to point ahead to Christ, who perfectly fulfills them.

Examples of each kind of type:

- Person: Moses – prefigures Jesus the ultimate Mediator.
  - Institution: Sacrificial system prefigures Jesus, the perfect spotless lamb and perfect high priest.
  - Event: Exodus from Egypt prefigures God's deliverance of His people through Jesus' death and resurrection.
6. What does being represented by Christ mean to you personally? What implications does it have for your life?