

Romans 5:12-21 Total Depravity: Part 1, Original Sin

**Everyone needs the grace of Christ to be saved from original sin.**

**1) What is original sin?**

- a) *Original sin is the objective guilt and consequent condemnation that is the condition of every person at conception.*
  - i) Objective, not subjective. “Objective guilt” refers to the actual verdict against your soul, before you will anything. You were “constituted” a “sinner” from conception (5:19): “the many were made sinners.”
  - ii) Guilt results in condemnation/death (5:12, 15, 16, 17, 18):
- b) We don’t become sinners because we personally sin. We sin because we are sinners.
- c) Application:
  - i) Are children innocent?
  - ii) How do we answer the question of whether humans are basically good or basically evil?

**2) How is everyone burdened by original sin?**

- a) *Everyone is burdened by original sin because Adam sinned as the covenant head and representative for his posterity.*
- b) “in him all sinned” (v. 12) not “because all sinned”—All sinned in Adam
- c) “Before the law was given” (v. 13) and “from Adam to Moses” (v. 14) describe the same era. What’s important about that era? Two things:
  - i) No explicit commandments were given/broken, therefore no death penalty exacted for actual sins (exception of capital punishment for murder under God’s Covenant with Noah)
  - ii) Yet, “death reigned” during this time.
  - iii) Implication: Everyone died as a result of original sin, the sin of Adam.
- d) Application: Human solidarity in Adam is marred by original sin. Humanity’s union and communion are entangled in rebellion against God as King.

**3) How is anyone freed from original sin?**

- a) *The free gift of God through Christ’s perfect obedience unto death delivers sinners from death in Adam to justification and eternal life in Christ.*
- b) “[Adam] was a type of the One who was to come” (v. 14b): Adam as covenant representative of humanity was modeled after Christ as covenant representative of redeemed humanity. We have seen what that meant for all in Adam. What does this mean for all in Christ?
  - i) Grace Abounding (vv. 13, 20)
  - ii) Justification (vv. 16, 17, 18, 19, 21)
  - iii) Reigning in life under the reign of grace (vv. 17, 21)
- c) Christ’s perfect obedience unto death secured these benefits for all who are in Christ by faith (vv. 15, 17, 18, 19, 21).
- d) Application:
  - i) “Those who receive” means salvation is by grace through faith alone (which is also a gift from God (Eph. 2:8-9).
  - ii) Reign through Christ by living in light of your justification. Obey as beloved children, not as cringing slaves.
  - iii) Covenant children who die in infancy are a holy seed (Malachi 2:15), and heirs of the promise (Acts 2:39), therefore, they are saved by God’s covenant grace.

**Doxology:**

“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor? Or who has given a gift to Him that he might be repaid? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.”—Romans 11:33-36