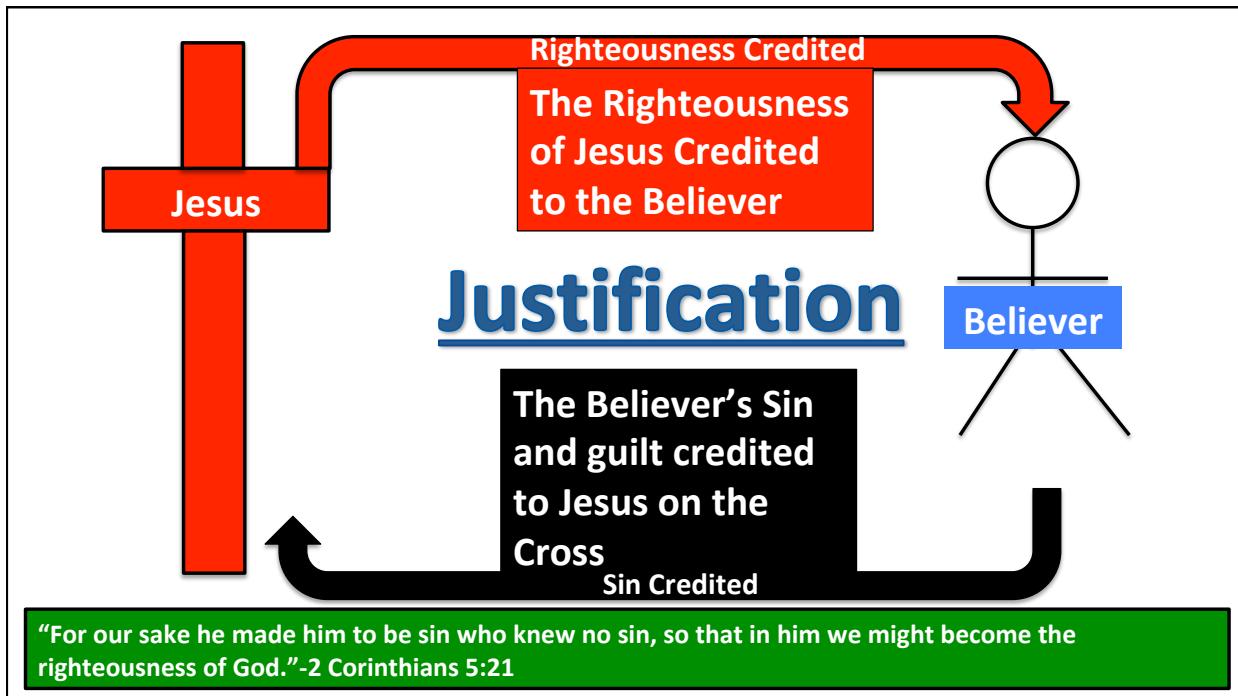


Romans

Chapter 5

Romans 5:1-2

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”



The Benefits of the Justified

- The **therefore** here in verse 1 signals that which follows rests on Paul's conclusion that we are justified by faith and not by works.
- Paul has established thus far that our legal standing before God has been satisfied by the blood of Jesus and the believer is now justified-righteous by faith in the work of Jesus upon the cross.
- God is completely satisfied by the work of Jesus and the debt has been paid.
- There is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus (**Rom.8:1**) since through His death the perfect sacrifice was made for our guilty actions of sin.
- Here in Chapter 5, Paul begins his argument that the reason we do guilty actions/sin is because at the core of our being dwells the domineering force of sin bending us to its will and enslaving us by its appealing desires.

- **Since** we have been Justified by faith there follows certain benefits provided by God:
 1. The first benefit is that we now have **peace with God** through the work of Jesus! This is not the peace **of** God spoken of in Philippians 4:7. This is peace **with** God. The hostility between man and God is finished and the broken relationship **reconciled** through Jesus.
 - “For he himself is our **peace**, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility”-**Ephesians 2:14**
 2. The second benefit is that we have **obtained access by faith** into the throne room of **grace**.
 - The believer now has a correct **standing or position** before God through Jesus by grace.
 - “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the **throne of grace**, that we may receive mercy and **find grace** to help in time of need.”- **Hebrews 4:15-16**
 - Jesus is the believer’s high priest representing His perfect sinless life before God taking all of our weaknesses and sins upon Himself in our place.

- About verse 15, Thomas Goodwin says, “ let us understand how feelingly and sensibly affected the heart of Christ is to sinners under all...their infirmities.”
- In other words our difficulties, weakness, and sins do not repel Christ from us, but just the opposite, His love runs in the direction of our infirmities which draws out the deepest emotions of His heart towards helping us overcome all the way to glory.
- Also, our position in grace reassures us that God’s present view towards the believer in Christ Jesus is one of love seeing believers in terms of joy, beauty, and pleasure.
- “The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.” - **Zephaniah 3:17**

- Some thoughts about **grace**:
- **Grace** cannot be earned but is **freely given**.
- It takes the Holy Spirit to understand God’s free gift of **grace**: “Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things **freely given** us by God.”-1 **Corinthians 2:12**
- The word that Paul uses for **understand** is **eido** and indicates a knowledge based on intuitive perception (same word is used for **knowing** in 5:3).
- It is **experiential knowledge** like the way you know the sun is warm on a sunny day.
- Paul is saying that the Holy Spirit has been given to us so that we can experience His grace way down deep within the fabric of our being.

- Man stands complete under **grace** accepted by Jesus with all of his weakness, hurts, and hang-ups.
- Man is not on probation and God is not a parole officer in need of having man prove he is worthy of His love and **grace** by good behaviors.
- **Grace** reassures man that he is a new creation in Christ, his past life does not exist, his present sins are forgiven, and **grace** will bring our salvation to completion.
- The believer is liberated by **grace** from the score sheet. All accounts have been balanced.
- The failure of the believer's commitment does not cause the withdrawal of God's **grace**. In fact, **grace** assures me that God, like a father comforting his child, will press in closer in times of my need.
- "The spiritual life is lived between two polarities: Our sin and God's grace. The discovery of our sin brings us to seek grace. The work of grace illuminates our sin and causes us to seek more grace." -Ferguson, Sinclair

Man Under God's Grace

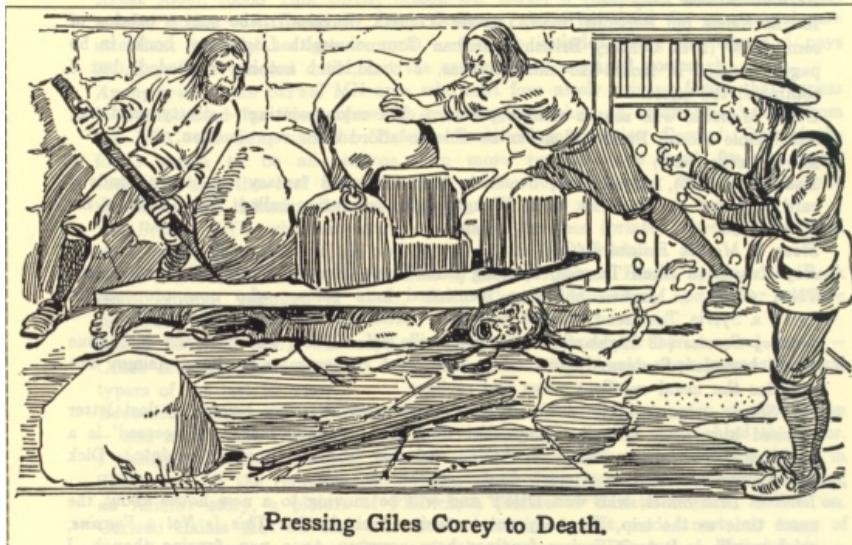
- "To believe, and to consent to be loved while unworthy, is the great secret.
- To refuse to make "resolutions" and "vows"; for that is to trust in the flesh.
- To "hope to be better" is to fail to see yourself in Christ only.
- To be disappointed with yourself, is to have believed in yourself.
- To expect to be blessed, though realizing more and more lack of worth.
- To be proud, is to be blind! For we have no standing before God, in ourselves." -Newell, William

3. The third benefit provided by God having been **justified by faith** is the believer can have joy and **hope** for the future glory of God.
 - “We must know that we are nothing. We must understand that we are merely beneficiaries and recipients of the treasures of Christ.”-Luther, Martin
 - “ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not **all his benefits**, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”-**Psalm 103:2-5**

Romans 5:3-5

“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

- **Not only that**, all those wonderful benefits of grace, peace, justification, etc. but also we get **rejoice in our sufferings**. What kind mind boggling sickness is this?
- I can **rejoice** in prosperity but **rejoicing** in my sufferings that's a whole other level of crazy. Is Paul a sadist?
- The word for **suffering** is the Greek word ***thlipsis*** and means a pressing, pressing together or pressure.
- ***Thlipsis*** was graphic word that described a torture method where by adding stones a person was crushed to death unless a person confessed of his crime.
- Therefore ***Thlipsis*** meant to depict events where a person feels trapped or pinned under pressing circumstances from which that person feels smothered or crushed by a devastating experience.



The View Of Secular Suffering	
Reason for Suffering	Random Accidents
Response to Suffering	Identify source, fix and avoid in the future
Result of Fixing	A Better world
Suffering in this view is a hindrance to our lifestyle.	
The View Of Biblical Suffering	
Reason for Suffering	The Fall
Response to Suffering	Believe in Jesus
Result of Believing in Jesus	A deeper and mature character molded in the image of Jesus.
Suffering in this view empties a person of pride and reveals a need and dependence for God	

Discipline	Trials-Suffering
Discipline produces <u>sanctification</u>	Trials of suffering produce <u>character</u>
The purpose of discipline is to be conformed to the image of Christ	The purpose of a trial of suffering is for the believer's maturity.
It is through discipline that God teaches the believer a lesson.	It is through these moments of suffering through the trials that God tests our faith and trust.
"For this is the will of God, your <u>sanctification</u> "- 1 Thessalonians 4:3	"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces <u>character</u> , and character produces hope,"- Romans 5:3-4
"For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of <u>righteousness</u> to those who have been trained by it."- Hebrews 12:11	"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces <u>steadfastness</u> . And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete lacking in nothing."- James 1:2-4

Trial of Suffering

- The discipline of the Father can be a trial of suffering for the believer but trials and suffering are never intended as discipline.
- “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with **punishment**, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.”- **1 John 4:18**
- Jesus took all the punishment for our sin and it is arrogance and pride to take that glory from Him by punishing ourselves and others.
- When we are suffering a trial we often wonder if we did something wrong. As a result, we end up confusing God’s discipline and trials.

- In this world we should recognize that suffering is a part of life but when we are confronted by it we don’t have to speculate if we have sinned or deserve it or are being punished for past sins.
- Job was a testimony to the fact that righteous people do suffer afflictions having done nothing to warrant such suffering. Jesus is the prime example of a righteous person enduring trial and suffering.
- It is a terrible circumstance when people blame and punish themselves for their trials and suffering.
- It is also a terrible situation when people who are close to a person who is experiencing suffering place the blame squarely upon the victim of the suffering as Job’s friends did.

HORATIO SPAFFORD



Horatio Spafford was a successful Chicago lawyer and a deep follower of Jesus. After his four young daughters were tragically killed in a ship wreck while crossing the Atlantic Ocean. He penned the now famous hymn, "It Is Well With My Soul.

- When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.
- My **sin**, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My **sin**, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
- Why in his deep sorrow did Spafford reflect upon his sin:
- "What does that have to do with his four little girls who are dead?
Everything! Do you know why? When things go wrong one of the ways you lose your peace that you think maybe you are being punished. But look at the Cross! All the punishment fell on Jesus. Or you may think... maybe God doesn't care. But look at the Cross!"-Keller, Timothy

- God wants to reveal Himself through our trials and suffering and He desires that the trial will develop **maturity** and **character** within the believer.
- “The natural tendency of trouble is not to sanctify, but to induce sin. A man is very apt to become unbelieving under affliction: that is a sin. He is apt to murmur against God under it: that is a sin. He is apt to put forth his hand to some ill way of escaping from his difficulty: and that would be sin. Hence we are taught to pray, ‘Lead us not into temptation; because trial has in itself a measure of temptation’; and if it were not neutralized by abundant grace it would bear us towards sin.”-Spurgeon, Charles
- James tells us to, “Count it all joy, my brothers, **when** you meet trials of **various** kinds...” **-James 1:2**
- This verse teaches two things important about suffering and trials. The first is **when** you meet trials **not if** and the second is that suffering and trials are **various**.

- The ways in which people suffer are as various as there are people and their various individual differences and circumstances.
 1. A person can go through a trial of suffering for being a Christian by being insulted.
 2. A person can suffer a trial for simply being a Christian.
 - To suffer as a Christian is because there is a difference between the world and the kingdom of God. We can suffer as believers because our Lord suffered.
 3. A person can suffer a trial because of the will of God.

4. A person can suffer a trial for not doing the will of God.
5. A person can suffer a trial because of the sinful behavior of people.
 - The Las Vegas Shooting
 - A drunk or texting driver hits and kills a loved one
6. A person can suffer a trial because of the company they worked for goes out of business or has an employee layoff.

- A person can suffer a trial because of health issues.
- A person can suffer a trial because of the death of a loved one.
- The ways in which a person can suffer in this world are endless.
- “Suffering is the heritage of the bad, of the penitent, and of the Son of God. Each one ends in the cross. The bad thief is crucified, the penitent thief is crucified, and the Son of God is crucified. By these signs we know the widespread heritage of suffering.”-Chambers
- “When we stand in the presence of God, all material possessions will have been left behind, but all that we have gained by way of spiritual advance [maturity, character] will be retained.”-Harrison, Everett

Knowing

- Paul says that believers can rejoice in their sufferings knowing that they produce character within a person.
- The word that Paul uses for **knowing** is *eido* and indicates a knowing based on intuitive perception.
- It is experiential **knowing** the way you know the sun is warm on a sunny day.
- This intuitive perception is based upon the internal work of the Holy Spirit, Who is our Comforter (**1 Corinthians 2:12**).
- The Holy Spirit is the One **producing** within us His quality of character therefore the believer can be assured and **rejoice** in our **sufferings knowing** that they are forming in us the life of Jesus.

- Through **suffering** we can **rejoice knowing** the Holy Spirit is producing the characteristic of **endurance** within us.
- **Endurance** in the “NT is the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings”.- Blue Letter Bible
- In exercise and weight training there will be times when a person will need to endure the trial of seeing little progress knowing that it will come eventually.
- Through **endurance** we can rejoice knowing the Holy Spirit is producing His **character** within us.
- **Character** in the original Greek indicates a **character** that is proven by the experience of trial and suffering.

- It is the suffering that should cause a person to seek out and wrestle with the deeper issues of life.
- God is working within the midst of our trials and afflictions to reveal something about us.
- Watch how you react during trials. What or whom do you turn to in your deepest suffering to escape the struggle? Jesus turned to His Father!
- “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.”-**Psalm 119:67**
- Suffering and trials can be a gift from God to shake believers out of any self-sufficiency which then enables believers to depend upon Him Who called us to His own glory and excellence of character.
- Through **character** we can rejoice knowing the Holy Spirit is building **hope** within us.

- Salvation by itself does not change your character. You take a mean-spirited, bitter, angry, man and you get him saved; you will have a mean-spirited, bitter, angry Christian. The only transformation that is meaningful takes place by the Holy Spirit poured out into our hearts.
- When a person is born again by the Spirit, Who had been softening his calloused unbelieving heart by conviction to receive salvation, the door of transformation is opened to the believer to grow in the grace and knowledge of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).
- The Holy Spirit develops within the believer His life-changing and life-giving power towards holiness.
- The work of sanctification is what the Holy Spirit does to us and in us. It is progressive and is throughout our life all the way to glory.

- “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are **being transformed** into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” -2 Corinthians 3:18
- “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the **washing** of **regeneration** and **renewal** of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being **justified** by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” -**Titus 3:4-7**
- “for it is God who **works** in you, both to **will** and to **work** for his good pleasure.” -**Philippians 2:12**
- “**Christlikeness** is God’s goal for all who trust in Christ....” - Bridges, Jerry

- Our union with Christ is **fixed** and does not rise and fall on what we have done or failed to do. Jesus said, “...no one will snatch them out of my hand (John 10:28).
- Communion with Christ **changes and varies** depending upon what we choose to do or not do in the working out of our own salvation in faith.
- Union is the secret to communion. Only when we have the “assurance” and “conviction” (**Hebrews 11:1**) that the Father has adopted us into holy union as His sons and daughters out of His great love and rich grace can we be safe and secure to press deeper into the relationship given to us in Christ Jesus.
- “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and **learn** from me, for I am **gentle** and **lowly** in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” - **Matthew 11:28-29**

The Fullness of God

- “For in Christ lives all the **fullness of God** in a human body. So you also are complete through your **union with Christ**, who is the head over every ruler and authority.”-**Colossians 2:9-19 NLT**
- “So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the **fullness of God**.”-**Ephesians 3:17a, 19**
- The Father and the Spirit come together in all their Glory in the Person of Jesus. Jesus said whoever has seen me has seen the Father (**John 14:9**).
- The Holy Spirit wins our heart to desire differently than what the world offers and what our flesh covets and that is to want God and to hunger towards being transformed into the likeness of Jesus.

The Three Verb Tenses of Salvation

Past Tense

Separation from the **PENALTY** of SIN.

You have been saved!

Justification

1 Corinthians 6:11; Titus 3:5; Colossians 1:13,14; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1-2; Colossians 2:13-14

Present Tense

Separation from the **POWER** of SIN.

You are being saved!

Sanctification

Philippians 1:6; 2:12-13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Peter 3:17-18; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:16-17

Future Tense

Separation from the **PRESENCE** of SIN.

You will be saved!

Glorification

Matthew 10:22; James 1:12; Hebrews 10:39; Revelation 2:10; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2

- "Totally apart from Law, and purely by grace, we have a salvation that takes care of the **past**, the **present**, and the **future**. Christ died for us; Christ lives for us; Christ is coming for us! Hallelujah, what a Savior!"-Wiersbe, Warren

God's Poured out Love

- Hope does not disappoint the believer because God's love has been **poured** into our **hearts** by the Holy Spirit.
- The word for **poured** is literally a fountain, a gusher, to outpour broadly. It carries the idea of a dam bulging at the edges ready to break out.
- **Poured** is also in the passive voice which supports the interpretation that it is something God does to the believer.
- God **poured out His Holy Spirit** to internalize within the believer the actual experience of His love.
- When Jesus died on the Cross for sinners, God settled once and for all that His love for all mankind is without question.

- The love of God is as vast and boundless as He is.
- Paul trying to describe God's love says, "what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."-**Ephesians 3:18b-19**
- Jesus prayed for believers to know this love, "I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."-**John 17:26**
- The love of God is like light to a blind eye until the Holy Ghost opens that eye... may the Holy Spirit now be here in each one of us, to shed abroad the love of God in our hearts."- Spurgeon, Charles

Romans 5:6-8

“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person— though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

God's Love

- It is one thing to believe that God has forgiven my past sins that occurred **before** I was born again. However, it's whole different ballgame if I believe that my present sin and failures are forgiven **after** I was born again.
- God loved us before salvation and He loves us now because of our faith in His beloved Son.
- In these current passages and in verse 10, Paul basically says the same thing to drive home his point:
 1. "While we were still weak... Christ died for the **ungodly**." -5:6
 2. "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us". -5:8
 3. "while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son...". -5:10

God Loves Us

- "As God did not at first choose you because you were high, he will not now forsake you because you are low". -Flavel, John
- The logical sequence of Chapter 5:6-10 is through the death of His Son, God draws near to us when we are at odds with Him or even when the mere thought of Him caused hate in us since we were weak, frail sinners, enemies to the Cross.
- Jesus loved and died for us when we were a mess and **still sinners**. Will His heart be turned away from you because you sin now? May It never be!
- "It would be easy to see the cross as demonstrating the indifference of God, a God who let the innocent Jesus be taken by wicked men, tortured, and crucified while he did nothing... Unless there is a sense in which the Father and Christ are one, it is not the love of God that the cross shows." -Morris, Leon

The Wonder of Divine Love

- Paul describes the wonder of God's **love** towards the undeserving. Those who are currently **weak**, currently **ungodly**, and currently **sinners**.
- This was to demonstrate that God's **love** towards man is not dependent upon man but comes from His own character.
- In case it has slipped our minds let us recall who these people are that Jesus died to redeem? Who are the **ungodly**, **weak**, **sinners**? Paul spent the first three chapters of Romans to demonstrate that we all are those people.

- You will say, 'Oh, I am one of the worst in the world.' Christ died for the worst in the world. 'Oh, but I have no power to be better.' Christ died for those that were without strength. 'Oh, but my case condemns itself.' Christ died for those that legally are condemned. 'Ay, but my case is hopeless.' Christ died for the hopeless. He is the hope of the hopeless. He is the Savior not of those partly lost, but of the wholly lost." –Spurgeon, Charles
- Even though Christ died for the **ungodly** it does take away the necessity for a person to confess and repent for man is without excuse and must not harden his heart when he hears the voice of God calling out to him!
- "As it is said, 'Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.'-**Hebrews 4:15**

Romans 5:9-11

“Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”

Reconciliation

- The words justified by his blood are paralleled alongside the words reconciled to God by the death of his Son.
- We are **much more saved** from the **wrath of God** since we have been **reconciled** to God and **justified** by His **blood**.
- **2 Corinthians 5:18-21**, sheds some additional light upon this truth of **reconciliation** as an activity that represents a work of God. It begins with God and it is accomplished by God:
- **“All this is from God**, Who through Christ **reconciled** us to Himself...**God in Christ** was **reconciling** the world to Himself...not **counting** their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the **message of reconciliation**...For our sake **He made him to be sin** who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God”-**2 Corinthians 5:18-21**

Romans 5:12-14

“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— for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 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.”

Adam’s Sin

- O Adam, what have you done? Your sin was not only your own downfall; it was also the downfall of all of us who are your descendants.- **2 Esdras 7:18**
- After eating the forbidden fruit Eve gave some to Adam who was standing with her.
- It was only after Adam ate of the fruit that their eyes were opened.
- Sin would not have entered the world if Adam had not taken the fruit.
- “For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.”-**1 Timothy 2:13,14**

- "... Adam would never have dared oppose God's authority unless he had disbelieved in God's Word."-Calvin, John
- Adam was not deceived but sinned with his eyes wide open in disobedience to God's prohibition.
- Eve's sin was the sin of ignorance, while Adam's sin was the sin of willful disobedience to God's word.

- What God said would happen did happen and because of Adam, "**sin entered the world, and death through sin**" (**Rom. 5:12**) when Adam sinned **all men sinned** and as a result sin entered the world.
- **Death** now is an observable fact that sin has entered our world. People are always looking for ways to live longer more productive lives when in reality death is always lurking over their shoulder to take everything they have worked to gain and to take everyone they have ever loved.
- "Every little white coffin,—yea, every coffin, should remind us of the universal effect of that sin of Adam, for it was thus and thus only that 'death passed to all men.'" -Newell, William

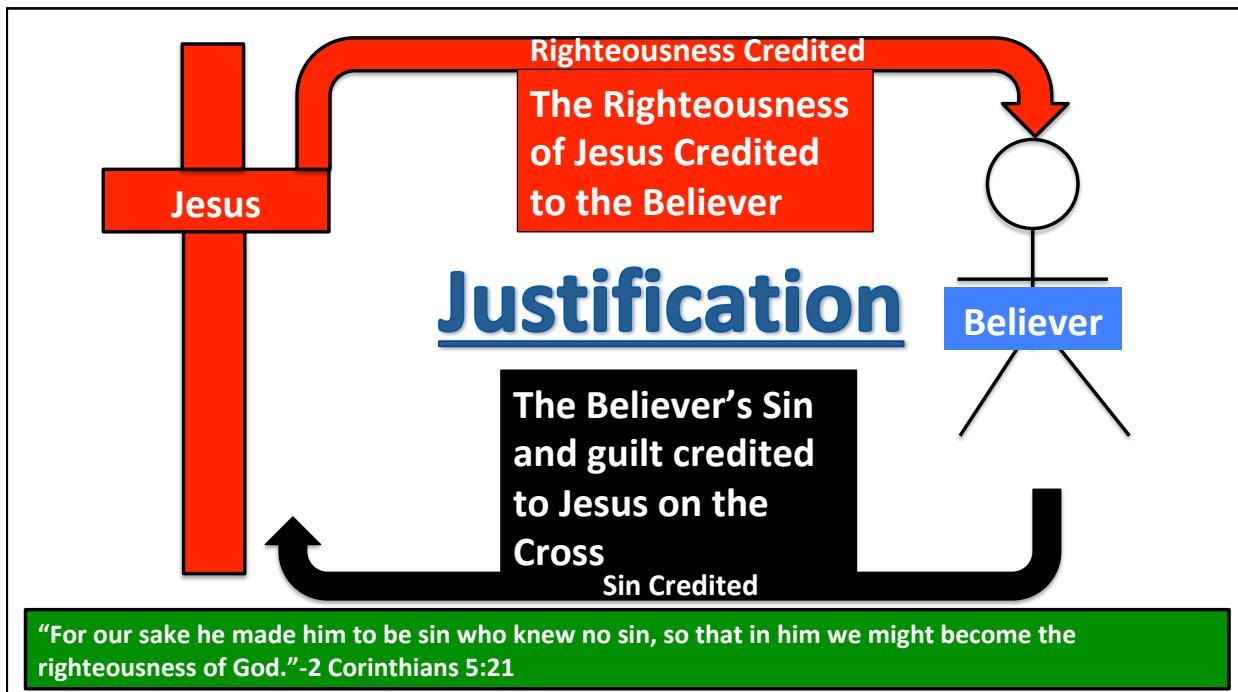
Are People Born Good?

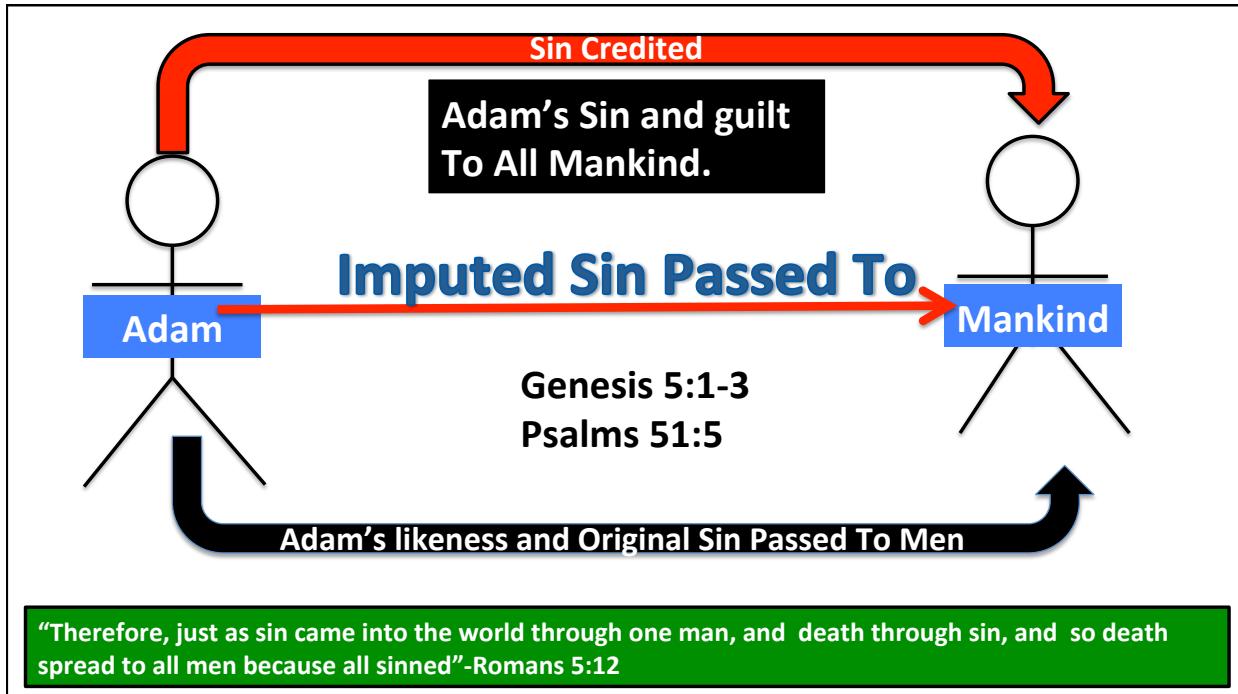
- “If you believe people are born good, you will not stress character development when you raise children. You will have schools teach young people how to use condoms, how to avoid first and secondhand tobacco smoke, how to recycle and how to prevent rainforests from disappearing. You will teach them how to struggle against the evils of society -- its sexism, its racism, its classism and its homophobia. **But you will not teach them that the primary struggle they have to wage to make a better world is against their own nature**.....if you believe that people are basically good, God and religion are morally unnecessary, even harmful. Why would basically good people need a God or religion to provide moral standards? Therefore, the crowd that believes in innate human goodness tends to either be secular or to reduce God and religion to social workers, providers of compassion rather than of moral standards and moral judgments.”- **Dennis Prager, “If you believe that people are basically good”**

The Root of Sin

- The reason we practice sinful behaviors is because it is within our nature to act that way . It is natural for us!
- The original sin of Adam causes a condition within the very fabric of humanity that now produces in man thoughts and actions that are contrary to the heart and will of God.
- A misunderstanding of this truth taught in the Bible may have an end result in a life that is performance based, stealing away our joy, and causing a deep seeded need to “prove ourselves” or a false sense of pride that says, “thank you Lord that I’m not a failure like these other sinful people”.

- No human is exempt from sin. “Therefore as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; and so death passed to all men, because all sinned. ”- **Romans 5:12**
- Those who have not come to Jesus, **sin and love it** justifying themselves by their good actions, behaviors that God says are dead because the work is not produced from Him.
- Those who have come to Jesus hate sin and although there may be a lapse into sin the believer does not justify sin but despises it and draws his strength from the Holy Spirit and God’s word to guard against sin.





The Two Firstfruits

- For our modern culture focused upon individuality, freedom, and the need to discover and express our true self it may seem strange to think that I am responsible for anything other than what I have done personally.
- If each person is sinful only because of their own bad choices then what do we say of the child born with a bodily defect or disease. Are they responsible?
- In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul builds upon his thought found here in Romans 5, that in **"Adam all men die"**.

- “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as **in Adam all die**, so also **in Christ shall all be made alive**. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.”-**1 Corinthians 15:20-23**
- In Paul’s thought process Adam and Jesus are each firstfruits: Adam is the firstfruit to death and Jesus is the firstfruit to life.
- In fact the idea of fruit makes up the whole structure and imagery of 1 Corinthians 15.

- In 1 Corinthians 15:4, Paul said that Jesus “was raised on the **third day** in accordance with the Scriptures”.
- It’s possible that the Scriptures that Paul has in mind and is referencing could possibly Genesis 1:11-12.
- “And God said, ‘Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their **seed, each according to its kind**, on the earth.’ And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their **seed, each according to its kind**. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the **third day**.”-**Genesis 1:11-12**

- On the **third day** of Genesis Chapter 1, we see that the fruit of creation reproduces **seed, each according to its kind** and Jesus, raised on the **third day**, is the firstfruit of the new creation, of resurrection from the dead.
- Therefore, what happens to the fruit happens to the next generation through the seed.
- So it is with Paul, in his logic, Adam and Jesus represent two very different crops: **Adam** of death and sin, **Jesus** of life and righteousness.
- When Adam sinned each one of us sinned **in** him. After being born again, by confessing and believing in our heart that Jesus is Lord, we are born anew into the righteousness and life **in** Jesus.

Definitions Of Life And Death

- In studying the Scriptures a person should have an understanding of life and death.
 1. **Physical life**: This is the union of the spirit of man with his body from physical birth.
 2. **Physical Death**: This is separation of the spirit from the body.
 3. **Spiritual Life**: This is the union of the spirit of man with the Holy Spirit of God after being born again. Our spiritual union is fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Definitions Of Life And Death

4. *Spiritual Death*: The separation of man's spirit with the Spirit of God before conversion.
5. *Eternal Life*: This is the union of the spirit of man with the Spirit of God made never ending through the work of Jesus on the Cross.
6. *Eternal Death*: The separation of man's spirit with the Spirit of God forever and is the result of **rejecting** the work of Jesus on the Cross.

Adam as a Type

- We are told that Adam was a **type of the one who was to come**.
- Type is literally a pattern or a picture lesson.
- “Types are pictures or object lessons by which God has taught His redemptive plan. They are a shadow of things to come.(Col. 2:17)” Dake's Bible

<u>Adam a Type of Jesus</u>	
<u>Adam</u>	<u>Jesus</u>
Adam came from the earth.	Jesus came from heaven.
Adam was a son of God (Luke 3:38).	Jesus was the Son of God (Heb.1:2).
Adam was tested in the garden.	Jesus was tested in the wilderness.
Adam disobeyed God.	Jesus was obedient all the way to the Cross.
Adam's sin caused the earth to be cursed.	Jesus's death and obedience ended the curse.
The Old Testament begins with the book of the generations of Adam (Gen. 5:1) and it ends with a curse (Mal. 4:6).	The New Testament begins with The book of the generation of Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:1) and it ends with no more curse (Rev. 22:3).

Romans 5:15-16

“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. 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.”

“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. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

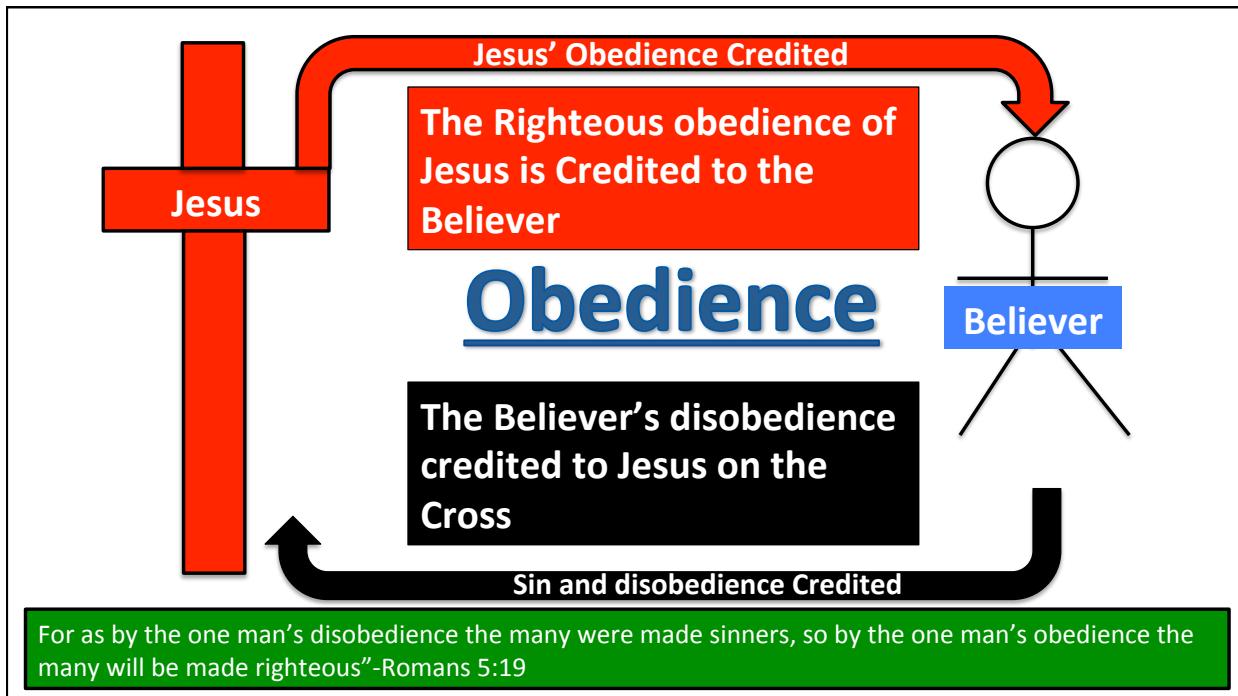
For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Death In Adam	Life In Jesus
Verse 15: Sin results in guilt and death both spiritual and physical.	Verse 15: Grace abounds and is a free gift resulting in righteousness.
Verse 16: Judgment following <u>one</u> trespass brought Condemnation.	Verse 16: The free gift following <u>many</u> trespasses brought justification.
Verse 17: Death reigns through Adam.	Verse 17: Life reigns through the free gift of righteousness.
Verse 18: One trespass led to condemnation in Adam.	Verse 18: One act of righteousness lead to justification and life in Jesus.
Verse 19: Adam's disobedience made man sinners.	Verse 19: Jesus obedience makes man righteous.
Verse 20: Law increases sin.	Verse 20: Where sin increased grace abounded more.
Verse 21: Sin reigns leading to death.	Verse 21: Grace reigns through righteousness
DOMINION OF SIN, GUILT, AND DEATH	
DOMINION OF GRACE, RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND LIFE	

- "Paul often thinks in terms of 'spheres' or 'dominions,' and the language of 'reigning' is particularly well suited to this idea. Death has its own dominion: humanity is determined, and dominated, by Adam. And in this dominion, sin is in control. But those who 'receive the gift' (v. 17) enjoy a transfer from this domain to another, the domain of righteousness, in which grace reigns and where life is the eventual outcome."-Moo, Douglas
- Every demand made by the law which gave sin its dominion over man for "the **power of sin** is the law" (**1 Cor. 15:56**) was completely fulfilled by the righteous life of Jesus and His perfect obedience to the Law's requirements.
- "For Christ is the **end of the law for righteousness** to everyone who believes."-**Romans 10:4**

- “And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”- **Colossians 2:13-14**
- “**For God has done what the law**, weakened by the flesh, **could not do**. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled **in us...**”-**Romans 8:3-4a**
- When a person is born again, “...you have died, and your life is **hidden with Christ** in God.”-**Colossians 3:3**

- The Father sent His own Son, Who was without sin, in order to be identified with man in the likeness of sinful flesh to **condemn sin for us**, so that believers can now identify with Him according to the Spirit Who is the very life of Christ in us.
- The obedience of Jesus to fulfill the Law perfectly has become my obedience through faith in Him.
- “What is the gospel itself but a merciful moderation, in which Christ’s obedience is esteemed ours, and our sins laid upon him, wherein God, from being judge, becomes our Father, pardoning our sins and accepting our obedience, though feeble and blemished?”-Sibbes, Richard



Reign of Grace

- Paul said in **verse 21** that, **grace also might reign through righteousness**.
- There has been a comic shift in the spiritual forces from the **reign of sin** to the **reign of grace**.
- The **reign of grace** leads a person to righteousness not to sin. Wherever grace has dominion God's righteous standard of living will be taught.
- "For **the grace** of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **training** us to **renounce** ungodliness and worldly passions, and to **live** self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, "–**Titus 2:11-12**

- The moralist's and the legalist's fear is that the **reign of grace** will provide wicked hearted people with a free license to sin but the Bible doesn't share that fear.
- Grace never winks at unrighteousness. Grace confronts sin with the atoning work of Jesus at the cross and the victory won by His resurrection.
- Grace does not assist sin in the life of the believer it faces it squarely and goes on the defense against sin in order to conquer it.
- "Grace conquers us first, and we, by it, conquer all else; whether corruptions within us , or from temptations from outside us." -Sibbes, Richard