

Imputed Sin Verses Imputed Righteousness
Romans 5:12-21

“Apart from the story of the fall, it is remarkable how little is written in the Bible concerning Adam. He was created by God; he was commanded to take dominion over creation; he fell; for him the first blood sacrifice was made. He had several children, the first of whom was a murderer; the second, a type of those who believe and follow Christ; and the third, the progenitor of the race and fulfillment of the promises of God. There is also recorded Adam’s age at death—an extremely meager biography. But two stupendous facts make Adam one of the most famous names in history. He was the first man, and he was the first sinner. He dissipated his children’s heritage, and we have all been in spiritual poverty ever since... Without question everyone of us is in Adam. Can you look away to Calvary and know that you are in Christ? Having been defiled by the stream that flows from Adam, you can find cleansing only by plunging into the stream that flows from the Lord Jesus Christ dying for us, as head of the new race.” Barnhouse

- I. Our fallen sinful state of existence came about because the first man to be created, Adam, chose to please himself instead of pleasing God. Because he chose to rebel against God’s command to stay away from the knowledge of good and evil, he brought to mankind universal sin (*imputed sin*) and its consequence, universal death.

Rom. 5:12-17

Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-6

“Adam had been appointed by God to be the representative of the race so that if he stood, we too would stand, and if he fell, we would fall with him. Adam did fall, as we know. So death passed upon everyone.” Boice

- A. Those who lived before the law was given were not held accountable for their individual sin, even though they were still sinners, because there was no specific law for them to break. Yet, they still died a spiritual and physical death because Adam’s sin had been imputed to them.

Rom. 5:13-14

- B. The one man Adam prefigured the one man Jesus Christ in several ways. Adam was appointed by God to represent mankind, Jesus was appointed by God to represent those who would be made righteous. Adam passed the effects of his disobedience (sin, condemnation and death) to all mankind, Jesus passed the effects of his obedience (righteousness, justification and eternal life) to all who would believe on him for eternal life.

Rom. 5:15-17

- II. The contrast between the finished work of Adam and imputed sin for all mankind, and the finished work of Christ and imputed righteousness for all who believe by faith, has created a great spiritual chasm between unrighteousness and righteousness that only the power of God's grace can cross.

Rom. 5:18-21

- A. Whose side of the spiritual chasm are you on? Are you among the justified or among the dead, are you among unrighteous sinners or among the righteous saints, are you among the spiritually dead or among the spiritually alive, are you among the condemned or among the justified?

Rom. 5:18-19

- B. God's solution to correct the disobedience of the one man and its effect on mankind was to send his Son as an atoning sacrifice for the sin that came into the world through Adam. His grace, in the form of his Son's sacrifice, overflows abundantly to those who understand their need for salvation. It is much more powerful than sin, and it will never be withheld because of sin.

Rom. 5:20-21

Rom. 5:20 *hou (where) hamartia(sin) pleonazō (increased) charis (grace) hyperperisseuō (abounded) hyperperisseuō (abounded) hyperperisseuō (abounded).*

Hyperperisseuō = to abound beyond measure, abound exceedingly

"No dam erected by sin can hold back the abundant flow of God's grace."

Boice